Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israel

Shamir termed U.S. reports about arms sales to other countries as "lies and libelous tales," Jerusalem radio reported. Those reports have caused "rage and frustration" among decision-makers, Jerusalem television reported. Defense sources cited by the radio said the country will act to reduce its dependence on U.S. weapons supplies and will buy from other countries, "mainly from France." Ministers and prominent politicians gave several interviews on the arms sale issue: the chairman of the Knesset subcommittee on arms sales told Tel Aviv radio that he sees "an example of malice" in the reports, while the ambassador to Washington told the radio that "pure slander" is involved. Meanwhile, another round of peace talks in Washington would be acceptable to Jerusalem if "it is agreed beforehand that the following round will be closer to our region," Jerusalem television disclosed.

Iraq

Baghdad radio broadcast Saddam's speech to a Kurdish delegation. In it, Saddam reminded the Kurds of his earlier appeal for a three-year chance to correct relations with them. Noting that the three years is not yet up, Saddam said that the direct dealing the two sides have instituted mark one of the best eras in Iraqi-Kurdish relations. Tehran radio, meanwhile, reported on intense shelling of Kurdish positions by Iraqi forces. Defense Minister al-Majid, however, denied the "lies reported by some tendentious foreign radio stations," affirming that "we presently do not have any intention of attackaing or advancing from the positions designated for our military units," INA reported. Interviewed by CNN, Tariq 'Aziz said his talks in New York were "constructive and that an atmosphere of better understanding exists between Iraq and the Security Council," the agency disclosed. INA also quoted a UN spokeswoman's remark that talks on resuming the country's oil exports would resume; no date was specified.

Jordan

A spokesman termed King Husayn's visit to Washington as "very good," AL-RA'Y reported. As for press comment, SAWT AL-SHA'B said that the visit "was by all standards successful," while the JORDAN TIMES saw bilateral ties as "back on the normal track."

Egypt

The Libyan secretary for justice arrived with a four-point proposal on Lockerbie, according to Radio Monte Carlo, which reported that the first item calls for a meeting between the Libyan, French, and British foreign ministers and Secretary Baker. Former Chief of Staff Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili returned to the country after 14 years and was charged with revealing military secrets regarding the war of October 1973, MENA disclosed.

Lebanon

A Hizballah investigation concluded that "an Israeli agent had placed an electronic device" inside the car of former movement head al-Musawi, thus facilitating the Israeli attack that killed him, according to Voice of Lebanon, which cited Israeli radio. "Obstacles" are delaying the release of the German hostages, the interior minister told Beirut radio; he added, however, that a solution to the problem is near.

Palestinian Affairs

A message signed by nearly one-quarter of Palestine National Council members urged 'Arafat to "redress the course of the peace process" by insisting on representing both "inside and outside" Palestinians, including those from Jerusalem, in one delegation, according to Radio Monte Carlo. In response, a PLO spokesman told the radio that the memorandum "will not affect" continued Palestinian participation in the peace process. 'Arafat aide Nabil Sha'th gave details

of talks between Palestinians and Jordanians on a proposed confederation between the two, Tunis radio reported. Reports on those talks met with "large-scale rejection among Palestinian circles in Damascus," Radio Monte Carlo added.

Sudan

The foreign minister denied reports on the existence of Iranian troops or military training camps in the country, SUNA noted. The Cairo paper AL-WAFD had reported that an agreement had been reached according to which Iran would send 10,000 soldiers to Sudan. The foreign minister, interviewed by the Cairo daily AL-AHRAM, denied that the country is harboring Sabri al-Banna, also known as Abu-Nidal, AFP reported.

Iran

Media reported on mediation efforts with Armenian and Azerbaijan officials to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The imposition of a cease-fire, a POW exchange, and efforts to remove economic sanctions were the main points of a draft program reported by IRNA.

Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front said 17 members of the group had died in a detention center, Paris international radio reported. Algiers radio reported that hundreds of detaineees at the facility have been moved to other locations to relieve overcrowding.

India, Pakistan

The Indian foreign secretary said the country "will not succumb to any pressure" from Washington to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty, Delhi radio reported. The radio also reported the foreign minister's remark that Delhi "will never allow the sovereignty and integrity of the country to be compromised" on such an issue. In Pakistan, meanwhile, a legislator said that attending the proposed five-way talks on nonproliferation is a "trap," and that the country should explode a nuclear device before attending such a meeting, THE MUSLIM disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Members Send Memorandum to 'Arafat

JN1503152192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Randah Habib report from Amman]

[Text] We have obtained a copy of a memorandum to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed by some 117 Palestine National Council [PNC] members in which they called on him to redress the course of the peace process by adhering to the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people in one delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

The signatories, who comprise almost one-quarter of the members of the PNC, which is headquartered in Amman, urged 'Arafat to link the resumption of negotiations to a halt to settlements as a precondition, and to insist on adopting the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The memorandum notes that the peace process, which is proceeding in accordance with the conditions and bases imposed by Israel and the United States, will liquidate the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's national rights through the autonomy plan in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Finally, they emphasized that the conditions of Israel and the United States, which are imposed on the peace process, constitute an attempt to remove the PLO's role as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to dismember the unity of these people, and to fragment their national cause.

Petition Not To Affect Talks Participation

JN1603065692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Palestinians will continue to participate in the peace negotiations despite the intransigence of Israel, which seeks to undermine them. This affirmation was made by PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

As for the importance of the memorandum issued in Damascus by 117 members of the Palestine National Council calling for the suspension of the peace negotiations, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said that this petition will not affect the continued Palestinian participation, and that the PLO will not change its policy in this respect. He affirmed that the PLO command will continue to implement the resolutions adopted by the PNC with an overwhelming majority in September 1991.

Plan for Jordanian Confederation Under Discussion

'Arafat Adviser, 'Ashrawi Comment

LD1503200692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, said in a press statement published in Bahrain that the plan for establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will be a plan between two independent states. He recalled that the PLO has already committed itself to creating a confederation between the two independent countries and ratified this in Algiers in November 1988. He also emphasized that the announcement of this confederation will come in the aftermath of a final settlement of the Middle East crisis, and of the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

For her part, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral peace talks, affirmed that talks on the details of this confederation are currently under way between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. She pointed out that an announcement concerning these talks will not be made for a month, after a meeting which will include King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Syria-Based Groups Reject Plan

JN1503183792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 92

['Abdallah al-Dardari report from Damascus]

[Text] The proposal to establish a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation has resulted in a large-scale rejection among Palestinian circles in Damascus. These circles believe that the confederation cannot be established until the Palestinian people have regained their occupied territory and exercised their right of self-determination.

Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, told our radio station that the talk about confederation is meaningless while the land is still occupied. He pointed out that the Palestinian people aspire to any unity formula with any Arab state, but not before they have regained their land and their right to self-determination.

Talal Ahmad, spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, viewed this project as an attempt to circumvent the Palestine National Council [PNC] decisions and a move to precede the failure of the peace talks.

It is worth mentioning that in various sessions the PNC approved the idea of confederation with Jordan after an independent state has been established. However, certain interpretations of UN Security Council Resolution 242, upon which the negotiations are being held, recognize Jordanian sovereignty over the West Bank because there was no Palestinian entity when the June 1967 war broke out. Have these interpretations prompted certain Palestinian sides to present the proposal?

Dawud Talhami, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, denies this possibility for three reasons:

1. The Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks refused to recognize the sovereignty of any side, including Jordan, over the West Bank when it was occupied in 1967.

2. The recent UN resolutions such as the resolution denouncing the deportation of Palestinians speak frankly of the occupied Palestinian territories, thus indicating Palestinian sovereignty over them.

3. There are occupied Palestinian territories other than the West Bank, namely the Gaza Strip and al-Hammah, which cannot be included in the confederation.

In any case, Palestinian circles in Syria are unanimous that the confederation project is still a concept and not a well-defined plan because no Palestinian side could renounce the idea of Palestinian sovereignty under any circumstances.

Algeria

FIS Says 17 Members Die in Detention Center

LD1503094192 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Last night the fundamentalist movement [Islamic Salvation Front—FIS] announced the death of 17 of its militants, all of whom are prisoners in the Reggane detention center.

It is one of the seven security centers opened in the Sahara since the declaration of the state of emergency in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Hundreds of Detainees Transferred

LD1403181592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Families of detainees held at the Reggane security center have reported that the detention center has declined to receive them for over a week now. APS says that it has now been effectively confirmed that hundreds of detainees have been transferred from the Reggane center to the town prison.

Contrary to reports, however, the objective behind the transfer is not to prepare for any release but rather to ease overcrowding at the Reggane center. Some informed sources went so far as to say that it is a question of transferring a number of detainees described by security authorities as hard-liners.

FIS To Go Underground If Dissolution Upheld

LD1403144692 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will go underground immediately if its dissolution is upheld by the Supreme Court. This was stated by a leader of the Islamist movement in Constantine. This is the second such statement in recent days.

FIS communique No. 21 last week was already very threatening in tone.

The false calm currently reigning in Algeria conceals the risk of civil war. [passage omitted]

'Thousands' of Pro-FIS Troops Said Arrested

LD1403193492 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Algeria—The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] has announced that the ruling Algerian State Council has arrested thousands of Algerian soldiers who support the Front.

News reports mentioned that thousands of policemen were transported to detention camps in desert areas on charges of refusing to fire at demonstrations by FIS supporters in January and February.

The reports said that the Algerian security forces fired at and launched tear gas grenades at FIS supporters after Friday prayers yesterday in the (Oued el-Hadar) quarter of Constantine.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses University Students, Faculty

NC1503182092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak asserted that he has opted for a difficult course to achieve comprehensive economic and social development in Egypt.

Speaking during his three-hour meeting today with the faculty and students of the 'Ayn Shams University in Cairo, President Mubarak explained the relationship between the world economy and the national one, the effects of foreign policy and its links to domestic policy, the effects of all this on the course of economic reform, and Egyptian achievements.

Following the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said: President Mubarak stressed that all his foreign policy efforts have had positive results, and brought about an agreement with the IMF, the cancellation of military debts to the United States, and the gradual writing off of debts, which is linked to economic reforms and was concluded in an unprecedented agreement between Egypt and the IMF that was in line with Egyptian policy. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak explained the inevitability of economic reform in Egypt. He noted that subsidies in the public budget rose from just over 9 million pounds in 1960 to 1.56 billion in 1989. He said that, despite economic reforms and gradually overcoming the burdens of subsidies, the difference between the price of oil for local consumption and the world price for exported oil is forcing the budget to shoulder around 14 billion pounds. [passage omitted]

On Egypt's foreign policy and its links with domestic policy, President Mubarak said that countries that isolate themselves from the world lose the fundamental prerequisites for fulfilling their domestic policies. He referred in this case to the new world order, and the changes and sound assessment of political decisionmaking that this order entails so that sovereignty and dignity can be achieved and Egyptian, Arab, and Islamic rights can be protected. He added: Under the new world order, our decisions must be cautious. They should be considered carefully and should have a wider view, so that we do not subject the people to difficult situations or uncalculated dangers. He explained that decisionmaking must be free from political wrangling at the expense of the people and their future.

He said: Under the new world order, we are putting ourselves in the correct and appropriate position with

which to maintain sovereignty and dignity, and we are also putting ourselves in a position that is commensurate with our international and regional role. We are making appropriate decisions that primarily serve the public interest without isolating us, and we are not shirking our responsibilities toward the Arab nation or other world issues.

The president added that this stand became evident in Egypt's support for all issues and in its role in activating the Middle East process, as well as in its role in the current problem between Libya and the United States, France, and Britain.

President Mubarak said at the meeting: Our relations with all countries, in both the East and West, are good, possibly for the first time in Egypt's history. He explained Egypt's relations with the CIS countries, stressing that Egypt is eager to bolster and activate political, economic, and cultural relations.

He also explained efforts made internationally in the past few years to serve Egypt's domestic and economic interests. He said: I toured the whole world and traveled thousands of miles without rest or stop for the sake of our economic problems. I thank God that all this has been successful. That became clear with the friendly countries' stand on our side in all our political and economic issues, cancellation of all our military debts to the United States, and achievement of an unprecedented agreement with the IMF based on gradual implementation.

Mubarak stressed that Egypt is committed to the policy of economic reforms and to its agreements with the IMF because these agreements reflect Egypt's economic reform policy.

Mubarak said that our relations with the Arab brothers are "excellent" and based on mutual respect, joint efforts, and coordination. Mubarak said that Egypt employs its potential, relations, and stature to further the interests of the Arab world. Egypt, he noted, supports its Arab brothers in their bid to obtain fully their legitimate rights.

Concerning relations between Egypt and Sudan and press reports on Hala'ib, Mubarak said that the two countries are capable of containing any artificial crises, adding that Egypt knows its rights and the limits of its sovereignty well and does not harbor any ambitions toward any land that is not part of its soil.

Mubarak expressed the belief that Sudan shares these same principles and respects Egypt's borders. He said: I hope that those who are scheming to create an artificial crisis will fail. The Egyptians and Sudanese are one people and will pay no heed to those who try to drive a wedge between them. The Egyptians and Sudanese have always lived together in harmony.

Mubarak added: I hope that the press in both Egypt and Sudan will be careful in reporting on our relations. We have traditionally strong relations, and the press should be careful not to use any language that could undermine a relationship that is precious to both nations.

Concerning the attempts of some countries to support extremism, Mubarak said that Egypt is an Islamic country that holds fast to religious values, cherishes the principles of Islam, and does not deviate from these principles. No one has the right to upstage Egypt in this domain, because Egypt will always remain the protector of true, healthy, and proper Islam.

We reject all forms of terror and do not allow anyone to bring sick and extremist ideas into our country, Mubarak stated. Those who try to import these ideas should know that their efforts are doomed. Egyptians cannot allow their sons to fall into the grip of these devious ideas, and will not allow the promoters of unhealthy religious ideas to influence our youth.

Mubarak told the students that there is a difference between religion and extremism. Religion is a buttress for all noble ethical values, whereas extremism aims to undermine society's rights and stability. We will speak our mind without fear of anyone. We will reject all forms of intellectual terror, Mubarak remarked.

The president fielded questions by students on a number of domestic, Arab, and international issues. Answering a question on the situation in Algeria, Mubarak said that the Algerian people are our brothers, and we respect every effort they make to maintain their unity and stability. He added that we hope that calm and stability will return to Algeria so that it may once again engage in construction and development.

Answering a question on building nuclear power plants to generate electricity in Egypt, Mubarak said that building such plants would represent a considerable burden on the budget in terms of loans, and that we should not burden ourselves or future generations with such expenditures. Once we get over the economic crisis, create jobs, and accumulate some surplus, Mubarak said, we will be in a position to employ such technology. For now we have to rely on available resources and other sources of energy.

Answering a question on efforts to reform the public sector, Mubarak said that the aim of the public business sector law is to liberate the public sector and improve its performance so that it may become a positive component of the national economy. Mubarak noted that the governorate-owned projects are being liquidated and offered for sale to the public.

At the end of his meeting with the students, Mubarak said that key public sector projects should remain in the hands of the state, which will expand their operations by offering shares for sale to the public. Mubarak noted that shares of various projects are already being offered for sale to the public. [passage omitted]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1519 GMT on 15 March adds: "President Husni Mubarak reiterated that the

peace process in the Middle East requires patience, resolve, and commitment to the objectives.

["President Mubarak, at a meeting with 'Ayn Shams University students in Cairo today, said that we should operate within the new international order, seek to resolve our problems in a way that suits the spirit of the age, and try to cope as best as we can with the changes in the world.

["Mubarak reviewed the peace process in the Middle East and the bilateral and multilateral Arab-Israeli talks."]

Libyan Justice Official Arrives for Talks

Received at Airport

NC1203222292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, arrived in Cairo tonight on a visit to Egypt of several days.

He stated on arrival that his visit falls within the framework of consultations between Egypt and Libya to coordinate in all fields, and to hold more fruitful discussions between the two fraternal countries.

In reply to a question on the Lockerbie plane case, the Libyan official said that there are no new developments in this crisis. He added: Our stand is clear and we are coordinating with our brothers in Egypt.

He was received at the airport by Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasar.

Meets With 'Amr Musa

NC1403113092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice. Bakkar said that the discussions dealt with all issues that concern both countries. He said that the talks also dealt with bilateral ties, and were fruitful and constructive.

Conveys Message to Mubarak

NC1403112492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, this afternoon.

After the meeting, Bakkar said that he conveyed a personal message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to President Mubarak, and that he and President Mubarak discussed bilateral ties. The Libyan official arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday.

'Four Important Points' Detailed

JN1503192492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Libya has informed the Egyptian Government of a new proposal to settle the crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France. More in the following dispatch from Mustafa Bakri, our Cairo correspondent:

[Begin Mustafa Bakri recording] Informed diplomatic sources told our radio that the proposal which the Libyan Government wanted to convey to the three powers includes four important points:

1. An urgent meeting will be held between the foreign ministers of the three countries and their Libyan counterpart in a capital to be agreed upon by the four states. The meeting will discuss appropriate means of finding a political settlement to the crisis.

2. A joint political-legal committee will be formed by the four countries. The political committee must be composed of the under secretaries of the foreign ministries in the four countries, and must hold one meeting before the legal committee meets, another meeting after an agreed upon period of time to evaluate its work, and a third meeting after the legal committee has met.

3. Each country has the right to define the method to form its own [as heard] legal committee, provided each country sends an equal number of delegates to this committee.

4. No political or legal work by the committees should hinder the UN activities aimed at unraveling all the facts and complications of this issue.

Finally, Libya affirmed that the three countries' rejection of the Libyan proposal will prove that these countries actually intend to destroy the Libyan people's economic and military capabilities.

Yesterday, President Mubarak received the Libyan justice minister and discussed the provisions of this proposal with him. [end recording]

Bakkar Departs

NC1403193592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1256 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Justice, left Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa accompanied the Libyan secretary to the airport.

Assembly Committee Seeks Briefing on Hala'ib

NC1103210892 Cairo MENA in English 1518 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 11 (MENA)—Members of the People's Assembly Committee of Arab Affairs asked for holding a joint meeting of the Foreign Relations and Defence and National Security Committees to be briefed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the latest developments regarding Hala'ib area.

Director of the Sudanese affairs at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Ambassador 'Abd-al-Sami' Zayn-al-Din said during the committee's meeting that Hala'ib is 100 per cent Egyptian and that it would not be relinquished.

Zayn-al-Din further asserted Egypt's keenness on not to have such political differences affect the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people. Egypt is capable of containing any border problems with Sudan, he said. According to him, two committees were formed, one to take over security matters and the other to be concerned about the border problems. The two committees have not held any meetings up till now, he added.

Former Chief of Staff To Return From Exile

PM1303125592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Mar 92 p 1

["Confirming His Decision To Return, Sa'd al-Shadhili Says: I Am Confident of My Innocence If I Am Tried Face To Face in Egypt"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Force during the October 1973 war, has announced that he intends to return to Egypt within days and face any accusations leveled against him there.

Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he will demand on his arrival that he be tried again on accusations leveled in 1981 that he revealed military secrets in his book on the October War, published in 1979, which led to a military trial in absentia and a three-year prison sentence.

Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili said that he had not known about the trial because it was conducted in his absence. He had not been informed of it, and had learned of the verdict from the press. Thus he did not have the chance to defend himself and reveal the truth. He added that he is confident of proving his innocence if he is tried face to face and is given the chance to discuss and refute the accusations.

He added that he will return to Egypt very soon, once his affairs have been finalized in Algiers, where he has lived for the past 14 years. He said that his family has already returned to Egypt.

The London-based International Islamic Committee for Human Rights has issued a statement in which it pointed to the possibility of Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili's return, and called on Amnesty International and human rights organizations around the world to urge the Egyptian Government to conduct a public trial of Lt. Gen Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili.

General Returns to Cairo

NC1403203292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhili, former chief of staff, returned to Cairo from Geneva this evening. Upon his arrival, he was taken to the military prosecution headquarters for certain legal procedures connected with the sentence issued against him on charges of revealing military secrets.

During his stay abroad, a number of sentences were issued against him, primarily that issued by the Court of Ethics in late 1981, sequestering all his wealth and property.

Certain political measures had also been taken against him, banning him from assuming any public office or running in elections. The measures were taken upon a recommendation by the public socialist prosecutor, since al-Shadhili was accused of forming a national front outside Egypt.

Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili was received at the airport by his lawyer, his wife, and family members.

His lawyer explained that Lt. Gen. al-Shadhili had been sentenced to three years in prison for publicizing important information in connection with the October 1973 war. At that time, his action was interpreted as revealing military secrets.

The lawyer said al-Shadhili will have to present an appeal, since this is the only way to commute or repeal the sentence against him. He affirmed that he had no contact or coordination with al-Shadhili about his return, adding that his voluntary return is an important move that could commute his sentence.

Al-Shadhili spent the last 14 years moving among a number of Arab countries, the last of which was Algeria. MENA has learned that he returned because no Arab country agreed to receive him.

[Paris AFP in English at 1935 GMT on 14 March in a similar report adds that al-Shadhili told AFP in a telephone interview on 13 March that "he was ready to 'face the worst,' and willing to stand up in court to prove his innocence." AFP adds: "Al-Shadhili, 70, has said he would reject any offer of a pardon by President Husni Mubarak, because that would amount to 'implicit recognition of guilt.'" The AFP report also says that one of al-Shadhili's lawyers, 'Abd-al Halim Ramadan, said "the general decided to return home on learning of the death of one of his sons-in-law two weeks ago."]

NPUG General Conference Names Leaders

NC1103125492 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 4 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] The third general conference of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], attended by 525 members, unanimously elected Khalid Muhyi-al-Din as party leader. The 225 members of the party's Central Committee elected Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Khalafallah and Lutfi Wakid as deputies to the party leader; Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id as party secretary general; and Muhammad Khalil, formerly organizational secretary, as Central Committee secretary, succeeding Dr. al-Sa'id.

The conference concluded its meetings last Thursday [27 February] after debating several documents: Khalid Muhyi-al-Din's speech; the political, organizational, and financial reports; and a report on the party's press. The conference modified the reports before approving them. Delegates emphasized the need for new political thinking regarding the interests of the working masses. They called on Egypt's political forces to discuss drawing up a national charter for democratic change and the peaceful transfer of authority. The conference also emphasized the need to strengthen democracy in the NPUG and to continue its firm policy of promoting Arab solidarity and peace based on justice and legitimacy.

Also approved were a party dialogue to prepare an urgent draft action plan to be submitted to the Central Committee, and a new draft political program to be submitted to the next general conference.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Leaders Confer Over Phone

Talks With Egypt's Mubarak

LD1203200992 Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia [March] 12 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the leader of the revolution spoke on the telephone and exchanged points of view on a number of current issues.

Speaks With Syria's al-Asad

LD1303133392 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation yesterday. The brother leader congratulated President al-Asad on his fourth term as president of the sisterly Syrian Arab Republic, and on the faith of the brotherly people of Syria who elected him.

They also talked about the grave situation faced by the Arab nation—which is targeted wholly and partially from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf—as everything suggests that someone is working to enable the Israelis to dominate the Arab homeland and set up their so-called state on the ruins of the Arab nation.

Sudan

Ethiopia Refuses Military Role; Iranians in Juba

NC1403170892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Mar 92 p 11

[From "The Brothers" page]

[Text] According to well-informed Sudanese sources, Ethiopian leader Meles Zenawi has refused to get involved in the military campaign that the Sudanese Government intends to mount in southern Sudan. Sudan's 'Umar al-Bashir paid a secret visit to Addis Ababa in early February during which he asked the Ethiopian leader to provide Sudan with 50 tanks and 10 planes.

[Sudanese National Islamic Front leader] Hasan al-Turabi has succeeded in getting Iran to agree to send 10,000 soldiers to Sudan. Al-Turabi secretly visited Iran at approximately the same time that al-Bashir was in Ethiopia. The sources say that half of the Iranian forces will be made up of regular troops and the other half of Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

The sources add that 1,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards are already in Juba, the largest city in southern Sudan. The Khartoum military government has received 57 tanks, 450 armored personnel carriers, 15 rocket launchers, and 11 fighter jets from Iran.

Iranian Military Presence Denied

EA1303202592 Khartoum SUNA in French 0940 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has categorically denied the existence of Iranian troops or military training camps in Sudan. During a meeting with French journalists accompanying Bernard Kouchner, French minister [as received] of state for humanitarian action, who is currently visiting Sudan, Mr. Sahlul described Sudanese-Iranian relations as "very developed" and said that there is close cooperation between the two countries in transportation, road construction, agriculture, and industry. He added: "Sudan is free to establish relations with any country in the world, with the exception of Israel."

Mr. Sahlul also reviewed Franco-Sudanese relations while expressing his hope that the current visit by Kouchner to Sudan will contribute to improving these relations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Sami 'Umar [Ahmad], minister of justice and attorney general, reaffirmed that the Sudanese Government is ready to open peace negotiations with the rebel movement, that is, "the two wings of it together."

He said that peace efforts would not cease because the revolution had opted for a peaceful solution to the problem of southern Sudan, in keeping with the resolutions adopted by the national dialogue conference.

Foreign Minister Denies Sheltering Abu-Nidal

NC1303123992 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 13 (AFP)—Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has denied his country is harboring the Palestinian extremist Sabri al-Banna, better known as Abu-Nidal, the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM reported Friday. "We're not prepared to create a new problem for ourselves under these circumstances by letting Abu-Nidal or his men on our territory," he told the paper in an interview. "If someone claims Abu-Nidal is in Sudan, let him prove it."

The State Department on Thursday warned Sudan it could be put on the list of nations Washington considers as supporters of terrorism because of the presence of "terrorist organizations" in the country.

The Qatari daily AL-RAYAH, citing Western diplomatic sources, has reported that Abu-Nidal is living in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum after being expelled from Libya. AL-RAYAH also said news of his presence in Khartoum followed press and Sudanese opposition reports that Iranians had recently opened "bases and training camps in Sudan to take in hundreds of extremists."

"Only elements of Sudan's popular (regular) Army are trained in Sudanese military camps," Salhul insisted, adding "it's not in our interest to train foreign elements."

Abu-Nidal is suspected of masterminding attacks since the 1970's against Israeli interests and Palestinian moderates.

In February, France issued international warrants for the arrest of four suspected members of his organization thought to have taken part in a July 1988 attack on a Greek ferry, the City of Poros, in which nine people were killed. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Kurdish Officials

JN130308 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during a meeting with Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Legislative Council; Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, president of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Executive Council; and unidentified members of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region Legislative and Executive Councils on the anniversary of the 11 March 1970 statement, on 11 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Applause and chants] Many happy returns. Before you speak, or before we speak on this occasion, we must remember that the martyrs are always one step ahead of those who are living because they have sacrificed their blood for the sake of the homeland and the people. So, let us start by standing up to read the Fatiha [opening chapter in the Koran] for the souls of the virtuous martyrs of the homeland and of Iraqi Kurdistan, which is free from the filth of the foreigner and the agents.

How are you all? [passage omitted]

We want you to tell us the people's news and their conditions. Everyone who wants to speak should give his name and title. [passage omitted]

It does not matter if that individual loves Saddam Husayn or not. What is important is that he loves the homeland and loves the necessary requirements that would enable the homeland to be glorious and the people to be satisfied. [passage omitted]

But you are eloquent in the language of the heart and consciousness. Any words that do not originate from the heart and are not based on consciousness are worthless, even if they were spoken very eloquently with a good vocabulary and good sentences, in any language. [passage omitted]

When we talk about our people, we should describe the situation as it is, not as we wish it to be. For example, some of my comrades in the leadership criticize me and say: You sometimes describe your people as you see them through your own eyes, or in other words, as you wish them to be. You do not always describe your people as they are at that moment.

I testify to you that sometimes some of this criticism of me is valid. But, man cannot promote his people unless he views them as a great people. Even when he knows part of his people's shortcomings, the ideologue—the one who has an unshakeable belief in an ideology under all circumstances—cannot build a huge building for his people unless he views them as a great people, as he wishes them to be. In order to realize or to attain the details of that great building, he should also view his people from a perspective that makes them look great.

I recall this part of the criticisms that have always been made against me throughout my political career, especially after the revolution, by Iraqi people like you who are sincere, patriots, and believers but who had their own views. Some of them used to say that the Iraqis are not [word indistinct] and you know what [word indistinct] means in local Iraqi colloquial terms. It means that they can never become what you, Saddam Husayn, wish them to be. I admit to you that those who made such statements cited examples from the past 700 years to support some of their views.

But does Iraq's history go back only 700 years? Some countries only wish that their history went back as far as 700 years. But we say here that Iraq's history goes back more than 700 years; these 700 years represent only one-tenth of the history of Iraqi civilization. Therefore, when we view our people from the angle of faith and comprehensiveness, we highlight the process of man's rebirth, not in terms of giving birth to an individual but in terms of instilling new qualities in this man. Man should be viewed as a great thing and, as God Almighty has wished him to be, enjoying good qualities that he should have. When we speak about Iraq, we speak about a civilization that is 6,000 years old.

From this premise, regardless of the negative points about which you speak with me in Iraqi Kurdistan, in the north of our dear homeland, do not think that when you tell me that everything there is positive I will be delighted. This is because when I discover that there are some negative things that you did not mention, I will be sad. At the same time, do not believe that when you speak about negative points, including negative points which exist within the people, I might shirk my responsibility toward our people. This is so because the people are like a mother and like a father; they pass through stages of youth, middle age, and old age, and sometimes they may suffer from something special for a certain period in their life. This means that some deviations may emerge from among the people's ranks resembling the stage of senility that some people experience.

In spite of this, we love our people. We love them while they pass through the stage of senility, or youth, and during the stage of capability, power, and honesty. We love them during the stage in which some deviators appear, and we compare their deviation to senility. The stage we depend on is not the stage of senility. Viewed individually, it is a minimal part of the personality. We love the entire personality, role, and all the stages that the human individual and the people experience. In the same way that we continue to respect our fathers and to perform our duties toward them, even if we detect signs of senility at one stage of their lives, this same thing applies to the people. All the people cannot pass through stages of senility. With their actions, some of the people can appear to be experiencing stages of senility. In spite of this, we continue to shoulder our responsibility toward the people, in terms of remedying their senility and capitalizing on what is right within the people's conscience. We will continue to deal with our people in

this manner, whether our people are in al-Sulaymaniyah, or in Irbil, in (Ayra Maqrun), or in areas nearby, because Kurds do not build on tops of the mountains due to snow and storms and because they did not have the means to reach mountaintops on which to build. The first construction on mountaintops took place in our time; we built on the Qarah mountaintop.

Brothers, I want you to discuss the experience as it is, not as you would like it to be, even if the experience was painful and hurt some of you. We are not at the stage of a criminal investigation. We are at the stage of correct assessments. We should describe the situation correctly so as to be guided to the right medicine. If our description is inaccurate, then our medicine will also be inaccurate. The right people to make the correct diagnosis are those who worked and assumed responsibility in Kurdistan.

Nor are we at the stage of whipping ourselves over our guilt—scolding the soul is like using a whip to beat the body; it is a means of suffering for having made mistakes. This is imperative. But scolding only breaks and affects the personality; it does not build it. We must admit our mistakes with the courage of the faithful, but along with this, we should say what is the right thing to do so that we do not make other mistakes.

We must describe exactly the conduct of our foreign enemies in the north so that we can accurately calculate the effect of every step on time and people which they make. We must also describe the situation of our people exactly as it is. Even if you tell me that there are some people who sell currency on the open road while they are satisfied with the situation that they are put in, I will not be annoyed because I can understand this. I can understand. Even if you tell me that some people who used to do business legally are now dealing in everything and are happy about this, I will not be annoyed. Of course, any phenomenon against the people, the high values, and the ethics and traditions of the nation annoys me, but this does not make me change the design of my policy, which is the policy of the state and the revolution toward our people in Iraqi Kurdistan.

I therefore want you to be direct, frank, and accurate at the same time. I should not clash with anybody in Kurdistan because I want to appoint this person, not that person, as leader of a national defense regiment. I should not clash with anyone in Kurdistan because I want my friend the merchant to benefit from the market more than the other merchants. I should not clash with Mr. So-and-So Farmer because I covet a piece of land that is adjacent to his property. I should consider that all Kurdistan is Iraqi territory, however, just as all of the south is Iraqi territory and the middle is Iraqi territory, and that the people in the north are like the people in the middle or the south.

I know that we in Iraq are a people of many nationalities, many religions, many sects, and perhaps many groups within these sects, and so on and so forth. However, I know that the age of this people, as they exist, is not more or less than 30 or 40 years—that is, they were not born only when political problems began in the contemporary age. No one forced these people to be one people. They have chosen to be one people in a democratic way, within a natural process, through the highest stages of democratic expression, through a willing, sound acceptance, and throughout 6,000 years. They chose to be united and to build a civilization not exclusive to the north, the south, or the center, but to all Iraq. These people throughout 6,000 years have chosen to be united, although they include those who come from al-'Amarah or al-Sulaymaniyah or Salah al-Din, or Tikrit, or al-Anbar, or Karbala', or al-Basrah. This people was not made. It is not one of the African peoples who were established by the despotism of this or that tribe. It cannot therefore be said that this people is divisible because there is another tribe that rejects the power of the first tribe. This people has been formed throughout 6,000 years. This is the most ancient country in the world. This people taught the world how to make states and how to make legislation so as to decide the rights and duties of the state and the citizen.

All, and not only the Iraqis, acknowledge the age of this civilization—since the people began to organize itself collectively on the aforementioned bases—at more than 6,000 years. This long period cannot be abolished even by natural circumstances, even if, God forbid, al-Anbar Governorate were to be utterly separated from the whole Iraq. Six thousand years cannot be canceled by such a measure. Even if, God forbid, a tyrannical force stronger than that of the 30 states were to come and say that we need to turn every governorate into a separate state, that will not cancel 6,000 years. As soon as this tyrannical force leaves, the people will reunite. They will once again become one people, with some speaking the dialect of Tikrit, others the dialect of al- 'Amarah, others the Kurdish language, and others Arabic. But they are all Iraqis.

Brothers, I therefore want you to describe accurately the situation as it is now. To encourage you, I say that I know that the state organs have made mistakes of their own. I also know that the events of the chapter of treason and treachery came to complement the great conspiracy represented by the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

When I visited al-Kut, I addressed the organs, particularly the special organs; this was shown on television. I told them: Leave our Kurdish people to me; I will deal with them myself. I do not want anyone to write a report to me on the situation. I will go there and see our people face to face. They can see me and I can see and deal with them. Give me a chance. You have all been—the saboteurs and the organs have been dealing with the people for more than 30 years. Give me a chance, give me three years. I thought that within three years, through my planning and determination and with the help of God, that our people will understand me and I will understand them. They will understand me, not in terms of personal relations, but they will understand the course adopted by

the state and the revolution. They will also understand themselves, and I can understand them. I do not mean that I do not understand the people. On the contrary, our people are very clear and known to me. But, I mean to understand small, specific details in their lives, details which the official—one whom they call senior, such as Saddam Husayn—would not pay attention to in other countries.

But I do pay attention to such things, starting with cooking pots, from which I can deduce something in terms of our people's conditions, to the way that crops are irrigated. I pay attention to all these things and like to know about them so that I can understand our people's mood and mentality in every part of Iraq. They are all specific things that help shape one's personality, way of thinking, conduct, and personal temperament.

This is what I wanted to understand. I also wanted to differentiate between the mistake which the citizen in Kurdistan may be forced to make and the mistake which is due to local the environmental or political or social conditions, so that the prescription may be more accurate.

The three years are not yet up. I am, however, fully confident that despite the fact that we have not been given the full chance that we wanted, our people remember this phase as one of the best phases, the phase of dealing direct without intermediaries.

But, do I pardon you for mistakes that you may have made as representative councils, security organs or police forces, or even the Army or this or that person? The answer is no. I cannot pardon anyone, in the sense that I cannot say that no mistakes were made. But, what is certain is that the government's central consciousness did not want mistakes to be made. When a report that such and such person is stealing reaches him, that person is called to account. And when he hears a report that such and such person is deviating from the path, that person is called to account, provided that the report is documented and true. Does this happen now in Kurdistan? Is there anyone to call the thief to account? Is there anyone to call to account the one who deviates from the true path? Or, is it not true that the people who should be responsible for countering deviation and slipping are themselves competing to represent the state of deviation?

We used to tell our people in Kurdistan day and night that Iraq is your Iraq, whether you agree or disagree as a people. The foreigner has no place in determining your destiny. Is this now being said in al-Sulaymaniyah? Is the citizen in Iraqi Kurdistan now being informed to the fact that the foreigner must not determine his destiny? You know that the foreigner does not determine the destiny of a people except in a way by which these people become servants to him while he is the master of the country. However, we used to tell our people—and we still tell all of our people—that the minister is the servant of the people, that the official is the servant of the people, and that Saddam Husayn serves the people. Do our people heed this, and do our people there just listen to what we say on this or act upon it? That is not important. What is important is to accurately describe the situation as it is, what is good and what is bad. If there is something good, we should say that this is good. This is something that pleases the people, and we should benefit from it.

I should have first listened to what you had to say before addressing you, but words come spontaneously. The more one interacts with a specific state, the more one has to say about this state. Let us go back to our discussion. Some of the people who at the time used to be called the opposition [words indistinct] choose citizens who are not politicized. They are the majority. Is this not so? I believe that they are the majority. By nonpoliticized, I mean those who do not belong to any party. This majority seeks security, stability, and a decent living. This is a simplified description of this state. There are others who are politicized, meaning that they decide their stand here and there based on their political ideology. This last description used to exist within the state which was called, at the time, the opposition—you in the north used to call it such, and we used to deal with and listen to what it had to say because it was a reality. Others used to consider this course as the road that will make the foreigner become the master of the country.

In any case, when the foreigner becomes the master of the country, the language of dialogue that one uses with the foreigner is that of the slave with his master. This is not similar to the language of dialogue among inhabitants of the same country. They used to address them as those who represent the authorities, and the authorities that they mean are not the British authorities. They are the Iraqi authorities who represent the Iraqis. These officials are Iraqis who get annoyed with you—sometimes they are right and other times they are wrong—but they always sympathize with you. They consider themselves part of you and you part of them. You care for them and they care for you. They work for you, and when, God forbid, they stumble, you protect them.

When the need arises to elect a member of the Executive Council, they used to shout: This or that man is no good. He is not qualified and cannot assume the responsibility. Who is capable? Tell us who is capable and let us chose him. We choose another one, and they say that he also is no good. We appoint a governor, but they say that he is no good. We appoint a district officer and they also say that he is no good. They have not yet approved any of those whom we have chosen. Well, are there good men among them? Referring to themselves, they used to say that only one out of five is not good. Is it true that only one out of five of them is a thief? You see this? We will discuss this later after we hold a dialogue.

They say that this person is not a good administrator. What should Kurdistan do if the conditions are as such? The people in Kurdistan have been absent from the

administration for a long time, so who should we bring in? We have to bring someone from our people. Can we import an Englishman, give him a headdress, and tell him: You understand administration, you are now from Irbil, so come and serve as Irbil's governor? We have to have someone from our people. When a citizen from our people in al-'Amarah becomes a governor, he may have been in office for 24 years and he has learned. But in Kurdistan, there are not even 24 years of stability from which he can learn. Give him the chance to learn and become like the citizen in al-'Amarah who became a governor and district official, and like the citizen in Baghdad who became a minister, National Assembly member, and so forth.

So, give the citizen, give your brother who belongs to you the chance to learn how to become a successful member of the Executive Council and use all the powers given to him by the autonomy law in a proper way—powers which we can also increase with practice. What do we want? We want everyone to work for the sake of Iraq and to build in a proper way. We want everyone to support Iraq at the time of calamity to prevent Iraq from falling.

Therefore, we will be glad when the Executive Council assumes any new powers and fulfills a duty. But, at a certain phase we may have to give the Executive Council certain powers, in accordance with the autonomy law. It is possible that when we see that the Executive Council can play a bigger role, we may seek further powers for it, even if they are not stipulated in the autonomy law— I mean, when it can work. And, when someone can work, no party can confine him within a closed circle. The circle around him will be expanded so that he can work and utilize all of his potential.

If the Kurdistan Region Legislative Council, for example, reaches a certain phase of maturity, we may feel that we need to improve the autonomy law in accordance with this maturity and within the context of the basic principles: the one Iraq, the one people, and the one general course. I mean, we all, whether in al-Sulaymaniyah or al-Basrah, want Iraq to be strong, capable, prosperous, and great.

The people that you used to term the opposition are actually saboteurs. This description is the least that one can say about the majority of them. There are other descriptions which, God forbid, are even worse than this. In the past they hid behind the banner of clandestine action and opposition. Let me give you an example from Iraqi life. A person insulted another by saying that that person's father died of hunger. The other person, who was wise and reasonable, told him: Brother, that is not an insult. If my father had found something to eat he would not have died of hunger. Why do you insult me by saying that my father died of hunger. That is not an insult. That is not something that was wrong with my father; at that time he simply found nothing to eat and died of hunger. What could he do?

Please accept my frankness; you are used to it. In northern Iraq and because of instability.... [changes thought] Whenever there is instability an assessment becomes unfair. So, someone may say this or that person is a thief. No one would ask him: How do you know he is a thief? Have you seen him? What did he steal, and how? There may be some thieves. In Baghdad there are thieves. And even now there are some thieves. There were also some people who stole things and plundered during the circumstances which the country witnessed in other areas. Television has shown such reports. This person was not a Kurd. Why did that person began to steal in full sight of other people without anyone telling him not to? The reason was instability caused by the war, the bombs, the lack of communications, the absence of central authority, the absence of law-enforcement officers, so the evil picture emerged and some people began to steal. Those people were not from al-Sulaymaniyah. They were Arabs from other parts of Iraq. They were not Kurds, but Iraqis, and they were thieves.

One of the bad things about instability in the north is that accusations are being blindly made against people. It is possible, of course, to have some people including some state, party, or public officials whose integrity is in doubt. But the situation was that whenever we brought someone.... [changes thought] In the end, regardless of their challenges to the Legislative Council and the elections, I thought that I should personally make sure that the elections were held democratically, that elections took place and people came freely to cast their votes. I can generally say—without discussing a case here or a case there—that people were not whipped into voting for this or that candidate.

Then why are you who call yourselves the opposition for certain purposes contesting a Legislative Council elected by the people? The Legislative Council and the Executive Council remain as they are. Now, they [opposition] are the Legislative Council and the Executive Council in al-Sulaymaniyah. What did they do to the people of al-Sulaymaniyah? If the state now goes to al-Sulaymaniyah only to repair services, it needs to mobilize all its resources for a long time; I do not know how long it will take only to return al- Sulaymaniyah to its past conditions.

Brothers, what are the things that God Almighty made good? Do not be annoyed by anything God wants—I do not mean a certain act in some village in the north of our homeland, but the host of acts that brought us to this situation. God wants the good of this policy. He made Iraq see all those who were hiding behind slogans. He enabled the Iraqis to see them. He told the Iraqis: You have seen those who have been leading you for 24 years. You have seen when they do right, when they do wrong, when they build, when they fight—you have seen them in all situations.

God then said: I will put these on one side and bring to you people who you have not seen in government

before—like the one who said that if his father found anything to eat he would not have died. You have not seen those people in government; you continued to live on slogans. It is possible that a minority of people, or whatever percentage of them—let us say X number of the people now present in al-Sulaymaniyah or Irbil, may say no, a majority. [sentence as heard] Okay, let us say a majority.

God said: We will show you those hiding behind slogans; we will give them full authority in al-Sulaymaniyah, or some other place, and let you see how they act so that you can, when you criticize those who are leading you, criticize them correctly, and so that your criticism is commensurate with the mistakes made, and so that when they make little mistakes, you do not portray these as major sins.

But are our people in al-Sulaymaniyah now able—this is the important question I want to ask you—to make a comparison? Can they compare freely? Can our people in al-Sulaymaniyah say that the Iraqis—citizens, people, and officials—who have been leading us for 24 years made certain mistakes but are still better than these people? Have they reached this stage? I want to return to my analysis. They reached a stage in which they saw the foreigner, and they saw them protected by the foreigner who was not coming to build a national state in Iraq.

I know that some people try to learn a language so that they may deal with the foreigner. Only a handful of our people are doing this. What concerns me are the people and what the majority of them want, what they say when they are given the opportunity to express themselves, even if this does not take place publicly but among themselves. You must tell me whether our people in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk criticize us, and how they criticize us, meaning in what areas do they now criticize us? There is nothing wrong with this because there is no man who is perfect and who should not be criticized. Perfection is a quality of only God Almighty. Not old criticism but new criticism. You know that the issue is not that of fighting. A small army which has walked on foot from Kuwait back to here. [sentence as heard] You saw what happened in those days. Have you not seen it? You all saw it. Thanks be to God, the state was rebuilt quickly. In one year it returned to being a state, an army, a people. But as for the armed forces, I issued them this order last April when I visited Kurdistan. [Words indistinct] because I do not want a bad element to come and clash with a soldier, beat a soldier, kill an officer, and have shots fired, injuring four citizens who have nothing to do with this affair, while there is only one bad element concerned.

Brothers, I would like to say another thing. The evildoers always seek to fabricate a cause with which to preoccupy the people. They do not want the people to have the time to see their mistakes and their deviations. They will always seek to clash with the Army. We told the Army: Leave for some time. Let your people see what will happen. Your people will then cry for the Army's help and will call on it to rescue them. You will not be far away.

The basic foundations of our structure and ideology are not how many persons one should kill but how we can protect our people, and how can we attain stability. You most probably hear this on the news. From time to time they spread rumors that the Army has come to plunder what you have and to kill you. Some of the inhabitants take their belongings and leave. What is this? Do we go cities and the inhabitants take their belongings and leave? No, we will not go to such cities. We do not want to make our people lose. They must know and be certain that when the Army comes to their city, they must say: This is our Army. They must welcome their Army and must come out on the street and welcome the Army with sweets.

The Army will protect their belongings, lives, and honor. Their Army does not go to their city to kill them. Has the Army been founded to kill the people, or rather to protect the people and the homeland? This is the course of the Army. I believe that if rumors now say that the Army will come, no one will take their belongings and leave. Some people who used to leave out of fear for the Army used to find that their belongings had been stolen by others. Is this not so? Let us discuss our people's affairs calmly and as they really are.

If our people are satisfied, tell us they are satisfied. If they are not satified, tell us they are not satisfied. But tell us accurately how it is; tell us correctly and frankly so that we can perfectly understand what the problem is. [passage omitted]

Allow me to interrupt you. The current negative manifestations in Kurdistan should be judged on the basis that if some people know that the state has washed its hands of Kurdistan their current misdeeds would have increased a hundredfold. They keep an eye on Baghdad, and still they commit such deeds. How would it be then if they imagine that Kurdistan is under their final and full control? How would they behave with our people in Kurdistan? [passage omitted]

As for the question of language, major missions are not obstructed by language. Islam reached remote areas in the earth. The Arabian peninsula Arabs carried Islam outside the peninsula, starting with Iraq and Bilad al-Sham [Greater Syria]. Thus, the Ba'th Party's principles can be communicated by someone who does not know Kurdish. In principle, however, activists and leaders in the region should be the sons of the Kurdistan region itself. This is the subject that you asked about. However, you have now drawn my attention to the fact that some facilities offered to party action and which have been called privileges have been given to group leaders. Therefore, some group leaders perhaps, having performed their duties in the region, did not want to move from the region. Thus, by staying there, they obstructed the promotion of the region's inhabitants to group leaders.

Some section leaders, however, come to me requesting a transfer from the autonomous region to the central region or to the south. I used to follow up on the matter and ask: What level have the Kurdish comrades in Kurdistan reached? I would be told that they had attained section membership, then a branch membership. Right? [indistinct remarks by the audience]

It seems, however, that when a branch member from Kurdistan is moved to become a branch member in the south, his status would not change. However, it seems that the weak link which used to exist is at the group leader level. When group leaders do not push new group leaders, few leaders will change in sections and branches. The leadership, however, has been extremely eager to see the sons of Kurdistan themselves fill the Ba'th organization's vacancies there. This is a correct and important remark. Nobody has drawn my attention to it before, nor did I notice that it led to undesired results. In other words, the facilities that had been granted to group leaders have led to undesirable rather than positive results. [passage omitted]

The problem is how to give those people, who are our people, their quota without their being destroyed on the way. In other words, is it possible to give citizens their quotas without being robbed on the way unless the state authorities are present? Will the state authorities go there to offer their services and yet be humiliated or killed? Some have been so mean that some of the state men have been tied up. This happened after the first incidents. When matters go that far, how can we ask for dignity for Kurdistan and at the same time send people who would lose their dignity when they go there? This is the question. Find us the law that would enable our people to meet their needs without being robbed on the way. This is the issue.

For your information, I am saying this to make sure that the correct quotas reach our people, but at the same time you can can find out from the minister of commerce about the quantities now being sent to Kurdistan, including food and other items. You can approach the minister officially to find out about the quantities sent by the Ministry of Commerce and whether they are reaching their destinations or whether they are being lost. If we increase the quantities we send there and these are lost, our people in Baghdad will go hungry, without the hunger of our people in al-Sulaymaniyah being satisfied. Do you see what the situation is like? This is the kind of situation that we will have on our hands. [passage omitted]

I will not comment on the subject of gasoline and kerosene. I will address the question of food and other things. Let's suppose a shovel is sent from Tikrit. Is it possible to guarantee that this shovel will be put into service in Irbil municipality or that it will not be taken and sold across the border?

So any location where state authority in terms of the Constitution, security, and law enforcement is absent is not supposed to be left that way, for this is exactly what they seek. They want to turn Kurdistan into a launching pad for sabotaging all of Iraq. How is that? By imposing a blockade on it. They want law and the state to be absent in Kurdistan. They want everything of value to be transferred to Kurdistan and then across the border, and thereby deprive Iraq of any potential for life. Are the interests of our people in Kurdistan thus served? Certainly not. If this were to advance their interests, so be it. We would gladly give our eyes to our people without any differentiation. We accord the same treatment to our people in al-Basrah, in al- Sulaymaniyah, and in al-Anbar. Individually, performance must be the yardstick against which our people are judged.

The Ministry of Commerce distributes quantities of food and other needs, for which it maintains records, and I think the minister of commerce has published figures. The quantities may fall short of the needs, but under the circumstances this is what is possible. But does this quantity reach the poor? No, it doesn't. So we are compelled not to allow this microphone to go there, for it will not go the Kurdish people; it will only transit the region on its way to Iran where it will be sold cheaply with the intention of causing sabotage. Things have reached the point—and here I am depending on hearsay, and I am not sure how accurate this is—in which Iran is asking for broken glass. Is that true?

What is the significance of Iran's purchasing broken glass? This is a message meant to urge the population to break the glass of schools, hospitals, and government property. See how low they have stooped. When efforts to sabotage our country reach this level, we are compelled to act according to specific controls in the region in which state authority is not enforced. Otherwise, your Baghdad itself will be sabotaged. In the areas in which the state is capable of ensuring that property is being used to promote the people's interests, we are compelled to safeguard such property. This is because once this property is transferred to places where state control is nonexistent, it will be lost. Hence, one of the issues which must preoccupy each of you should be how to.... [changes thought] From this meeting I, of course, have crystallized specific ideas that I will attempt to consider thoroughly concerning issues which we can remedy.

However, you, my brothers, are asked to identify the means of safeguarding our property. At the same time, you must think of ways to ensure that our property which we wish to reach our people in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Dahuk, or any other place reaches its destination and is used by the people. We do not want to see this property lost to this or that party along the road. Nor do we want to see only a meager quantity of the property sent reach its destination and consequently meet only part of the needs. This would perpetuate the process meant to sabotage the economy. [passage omitted]

Is foreign power [words indistinct]? You recall that when the July 1958 Revolution took place all Iraqis were

jubilant. At that time a citizen wearing a Kurdish headdress faced the British Embassy and addressed it in Iraqi dialect, saying: Pardon [preceding word in English] me, how did you overthrow the government? After a while we began to speak about the colonial powers and the many things they did. This is true. Colonial powers want nothing other than their own interests. Who brought in the foreigners? The foreigners are no longer in al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, al-Kut, and Baghdad. Do the foreigners not want to come to Baghdad to stay there? To the foreigner, a stay in Baghdad is preferable to a stay in al-Sulaymaniyah. Why has he failed to do so? Why has Iran failed to reach Baghdad, Karbala', al-Najaf, or al-Basrah over an eight-year period? It used to strike its head on the borders but to no avail. This is because there was no shortcoming enabling Iran to come in and place it in a nearby place.

Now our people in al-Sulaymaniyah and other places have been rendered helpless due to the circumstances which you have explained. This is true. The same goes for our people in al-'Amarah. After all that has happened, however, it came to be known that our people are the people of heroic feats, glories, liberation, and magnanimity. Had foreigners found life unsafe in al-Sulaymaniyah they would not have stayed there—when foreigners find their lives in danger everywhere on Iraqi territory unless they are there at the behest of the central government. For example, the foreigner might come and cooperate with us in building a dam. He would build the dam in question and receive his pay as a worker working with us. If this is with we as his masters, this is fine. We do not want to see him acting as a master and giving orders.

Some foreigners in the north act as though they are masters; they give orders. In the past they were in your area, but you were the ones who gave orders. This is the difference. In the past an Englishman would come to your area at your orders to build you an arched bridge. He would then tell you that he is going to build you a bridge for a certain amount of money. And you would tell him: Okay, build the bridge, take your money, and go home. He would build the bridge, take his money, feel grateful, and would thank you because you chose him. When an Englishman arrives there now, he immediately starts giving orders. The Iranian is now a master there; he also gives orders. Is this befitting the dignity of our Iraqi people and the dignity of our Kurdish people in Kurdistan? No, it is not befitting. Therefore, this is the topic that should preoccupy your thoughts: How will the foreigner leave Kurdistan?

As for differences among parties and groups, this is not a problem. There are differences even within the one family. Brothers can, however, resolve their problems if they have a wise father. But if there is no wise father, then differences can cause problems. We are all asked to rack our brains and to make struggling and jihad efforts to come up with a way for our people in Kurdistan to achieve stability so that no one will violate their honor, property, dignity, or security.

As for difference in opinions, this is natural. We are never bothered by opinions because if a certain view is correct, then it will correct our mistakes. If, on the other hand, this view proves to be wrong, we will correct it. Expressing opinions and holding a dialogue within the one people are possible when the foreigner is not the master of the people.

Commenting on what some of you, my brothers, have said about a person—today I will deal with this topic diplomatically and will not mention the name of this person—in 1970, this person used to fight alongside the authorities with his rifle. When we issued the March statement he was unhappy. Of course he now considers himself to be more Kurdish than any one of you. He believes that none of your causes are equal to his. But I am recounting historical facts; he was indeed unhappy. He was most unhappy with Saddam Husayn because he saw that Saddam Husayn respects his signature and doesn't play games. Now, this man carries his rifle with the foreigners. Why? Because of something which he considers more developed than autonomy. But in 1970 when we issued the autonomy, you rejected.... [changes thought] You opposed this. He was unhappy despite the fact that there was nothing to warrant this. We held dialogues with him from time to time, but this led us nowhere. When the autonomy law was signed in 1970, mullah Mustafa Barzani, may God have mercy on him, signed the pardon with me.

Mullah Mustafa Barzani is now dead, but he was also a Kurd who spoke Kurdish. The March statement says that the autonomy law shall apply to the area whose vast majority are Kurds. The statement is clear and does not have several interpretations. Now that person is looking for interpretations, despite the fact that two well-known Iraqis authored that statement. Therefore, replying to what you have said that some claim that they are more Kurdish than you, these topics—being a Kurd, a nationalist, and other things such as pan-Arab, humanitarian, and religious—are all judged on the criterion of conduct. There are people who do not wear Kurdish headdresses. They wear a different Arab headdress. Those wearing an Arab headdress, it later transpired, betrayed Arabism more than any human being who is not wearing an Arab headdress. In the Mother of Battles some people gave themselves titles, for example the custodian of the two holy mosques, but this custodian brought in Americans, Englishmen, and Zionists and stationed them in the holy land that contains the two holy mosques. So is it enough for one simply to give himself titles?

For example, can I say that I am the so-and-so Saddam Husayn? All titles are meaningless if they are not accompanied by appropriate conduct. For example, try to give anyone any name. The name will be of no use. Try also to call someone Muhammad. The name Muhammad represents great descriptions. There is no need for you to give him a title. His conduct is enough. This goes for the description of a Kurd. Anyone in Baghdad can be more Kurdish than many people in the north of the homeland who say that they are Kurds and who now sell the Kurds

cheaply. They are watching with their own eyes how their dignity, security, and future are being violated. Therefore, it is not a matter of talk.

If someone says that he is a nationalist, this does not mean that he is a nationalist. Or if someone says that he is a leftist, does this mean that he is a leftist, as opposed to a rightist in the revolutionary sense?

Under normal circumstances, if they say in Kurdistan that they want a freely elected Legislative Council and to be provided with the atmosphere in which to elect the people that they want to elect, we would say congratulations. We would sponsor this as our dearest thing. But will a state be established in Kurdistan? When they decide to establish a state in Kurdistan, they must decide to partition Iran and Turkey. This is because when a state is established in Iraqi Kurdistan, this will affect Iran and Turkey.

They think that if Kurdistan remains the way it is now, it could, in the manner of an ant, eat into all of Iraq. This is one of their objectives. When they see that Kurdistan has become rather like Lebanon, things will be different. Give my compliments to our people in Kurdistan. Let's hope that none of them will act apathetically, or one of these days they may come to regret this deeply. The Lebanese people have been deprived of stability. Lebanon has not lost mere dozens or hundreds but thousands, and it may still have to suffer further, and it has yet to achieve anything. When foreigners are in a given country there will not be stability, nor will rights and duties be defined. Wherever they are they do not want rights and duties to be defined, so that they can entrench that which they deem to be their rights according to the concept of colonialism.

Let's hope that our people in Kurdistan will not let the manipulators mess things up. Iran failed to hold a single Kurdish village in eight years. They should not let Iran do what it wants in Kurdistan. When the people set their face against oppression they will render it fruitless. Freedom, dignity, stability, and dignified nationalist values have a price. But the price paid with honor is far less than that paid under the boots of the foreigner when dignity is violated and opportunities are squandered.

One of the things that especially hurt us when we visited our people in the north or in the marshes of southern Iraq was that life had passed them by—for some of them for hundreds of years—on account of the nature of the land. They have not rubbed shoulders with the centers of civilization. I once encountered citizens in the marshes whose fathers had never been to town. I also met with 70-year-olds in the mountains who had never been to the city. I went by plane to the heart of the mountains. This means that such a person has missed out on life. How can someone holed up in the heart of the mountains be expected to develop without the benefit of having visited somewhere else, watched television, listened to the radio, read a newspaper, or met with another person who could tell him about radio, television, newspapers, and life? How can one in the marshes develop while not having seen life? How can we compensate them as quickly as possible for what they have missed? We are pained when by virtue of circumstances of instability we are not able to develop Kurdistan as much as we would like.

Only a few opportunities were available, yet what we have achieved is great given the few chances and short duration. Instability and the lack of law, state, and order deny our people in Kurdistan a chance. At a time when Iraq is progressing, Kurdistan is not remaining where it is but rather is regressing. This is because everything is being ruined now. When there is no foreign presence in Kurdistan, in terms of influence, persons, or lackeys, any disagreement among the one people can be solved. Nothing cannot be solved. If there is a foreign presence in terms of lackeys, persons, or influence, however, it is difficult to have a serious and honest dialogue among the one people. [passage omitted]

In this honorable month we should often consult the Holy Koran about life. When God Almighty tests the faithful and their patience, this does not mean that He does not love them or that, more precisely, He is not satisfied with them. If some people are wealthy, for example, this does not mean that God Almighty is satisfied with them. In view of the circumstances experienced by Iraq, including the circumstances experienced by Kurdistan, which is a dear part of Iraq, the question is whether we will benefit from these circumstances and lessons, or whether we will indifferently let them pass by without carefully scrutinizing them to learn from them.

As we did in the past, we are determined, with the help of God, to benefit from all lessons. We will tackle deviations and build on sound bases. Today, 11 March, is the day when Iraq, as a people and a political will, took a sound step to maintain its unity.

The 11 March statement is a sound gateway for Iraqis, a gateway for stability meant to enable Iraqis, all Iraqis wherever they are, to express themselves. And because the Kurdish sons of our people in Kurdistan are Iraqis, it is then a sound gateway for them to adequately and properly express their character as well as the human values that they cherish. They must be provided the proper climate so that their self-expression can acquire its noble significance as part of the general self-expression of the great Iraqi people.

The ordeals that Iraq has experienced are immense. The lessons that we will draw from these ordeals, God willing, however, will be proportionate in immensity to the ordeals. And here, we mean the lessons that will improve construction in Iraq, safeguard and protect the Iraqis' dignity, elevate Iraq to further heights of glory, and turn Iraq into a shining center of excellence within the community of nations and the Arab nation as well.

Wherever possible, relay my greetings to all good people in Kurdistan, particularly religious scholars and youths. If the Kurdish youths and religious scholars cooperate

with all other good people there, including tribal leaders, they can reverse the deviation and guide people along the correct path. If such a climate were to be created and such a determination were to be demonstrated by our people, then the will for goodness and assistance in your country will not be far off. Say hello to everyone. [applause]

Army Units Clash With Kurds in Kifri

'Heavy' Shelling Reported

LD1403165192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Iraqi Army artillery early this morning resumed its heavy shelling of the Kifri area, located south of Kirkuk, in northern Iraq.

Radio PUK [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan], reporting the action, said: According to reports many defenseless people have been killed and wounded in the shelling, and many houses have been damaged. The radio station added: Kurdish peshmergas have entered the fray to confront the onslaught of the Saddam regime's forces in the Kifri area. There is heavy fighting between the two sides.

Meanwhile, a spokesman in America for the hypocrites' grouplet [referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], in a reply to Talabani's remarks concerning the widespread participation of the hypocrites in the operation to suppress Iraqi Kurds, once again threatened Iraqi Kurds with suppression and the resumption of military operations.

Kifri Shelled for '24 Hours'

LD1503113592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] On the anniversary of the tragic chemical attack against Halabjah, a group of Iraqi Kurds opposing Saddam's regime gathered and held a demonstration outside the UN representative's office in al-Sulaymaniyah today. An Iraqi Kurdish opposition source today said: The demonstrators handed over a petition and announced their opposition to the silence of international bodies and the performance of the United Nations concerning the critical situation of the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Meanwhile, incoming reports concerning the number of casualties resulting from yesterday's shelling of Kifri, Iraq speak of the death or injury of at least 26 civilians. A spokesperson of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan yesterday announced: The shelling of Kifri started on Friday morning and continuously proceeded for the next 24 hours.

He added: The Baghdad regime is extending its operations in northern Iraq. It is preparing itself for an all-out attack on the Kurdish inhabitants of this region.

Kifri, with a population of 30,000, is located on the southern fringes of the Kurdish-populated region of Iraq.

Other incoming reports from northern Iraq speak of the encirclement of a number of Kurdish villages in the Sanjar region by the Iraqi Army. They are preparing themselves for an attack against the bases of the Kurdish opposition.

According to reports received over the last few days the Hamawand and (?Maniwah) regions have been shelled by Iraqi forces. This shelling has resulted in a number of casualties and damage to those regions.

'Many' Killed in North

TA1303214492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on clashes in southern Iraq] Medecins Sans Frontiers [Doctors Without Borders], who are providing services to the people in northern Iraq on a voluntary basis, reported that many people were killed and around 200 were wounded in clashes between Army units and the opposition groups in this area.

The aid organization stated that health conditions in northern Iraq are very poor and added that there are shortages of food, medicine, and medical equipment in the area because of the embargo imposed by the Baghdad administration.

'Fierce' Fighting Continues

NC1403162092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Fierce fighting continues in the north of the homeland between the Kurdish rebels and defeated Saddam's remnants.

Our news sources said that the 'Aflaqite forces [words indistinct] the line separating them from the areas under the control of the sons of our Kurdish people. Our sources added that the criminal regime launched a barbaric attack against Tuz, in Karkuk Governorate, in which a large number of innocent citizens were martyred, most of them women and children.

The attacks by the regime, the enemy of the people, aim to abort the elections scheduled to be held in April.

It should be recalled that the three governorates under Kurdish peshmerga control were liberated from the 'Aflaqite tyranny about a year ago and are now under the direct administration of its sons. This is why the 'Aflaqites have admitted that Kurdistan is not under their central control.

Defense Minister Denies Attack

JN1503125492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1206 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC]

member and defense minister, today denied the lies reported by some tendentious foreign radio stations that the Army had advanced toward some saboteurs in northern Iraq and that these saboteurs confronted the brave Iraqi Army.

During his meeting at the Ministry of Defense with a number of field commanders the defense minister said: Some agents and deviants, in the land of the Kurdistan of great Iraq, in the political movements under the Kurdistan Front extend services to the saboteurs whenever they harm Iraq.

The RCC member and defense minister emphasized that we presently do not have any intention of attacking or advancing from the positions designated for our military units. These positions are currently known to the Iraqis, the saboteurs, and their masters, who have had the chance to photograph or see them on a daily basis, either with their own eyes or through the eyes of the agents.

He asserted that if the agents wish to test their stumbling luck they will harvest only disappointment and defeat.

He said that our Army's national history is full of glorious deeds whether in confronting governments which were agents for the foreigners or in its militant stand in al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles.

He affirmed the need to pay attention to military training, the fighters' readiness, and to improve human relations to reinforce military discipline to improve performance.

The meeting was attended by the chief of staff and his assistants.

Barzani Talks With French Minister 'Positive'

JN0503111392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1810 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas received Mas'ud Barzani and his delegation at the Foreign Ministry building on the afternoon of 3 March. The meeting lasted more than one hour. Barzani was earlier accorded an official reception at the ministry's entrance. In addition to the foreign minister, the head of the Middle East Department at the ministry, the ministry's spokesperson, and high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials participated in the official talks.

Both the French and Kurdish sides discussed several issues, including the general political and economic situation in Iraqi Kurdistan and France's leading role in issuing UN Security Council Resolution 688. They also discussed the Kurdish problem, humanitarian and development aid, and the recent Turkish raids on peaceful villages in Kurdistan. The meeting was extremely positive and cordial.

After having presented a small gift to party leader Mas'ud Barzani, Dumas escorted him outside the building, where both spoke to reporters on the results of the talks.

Bernard Kouchner, secretary of state for humanitarian action, met with Barzani and his delegation in his office on the evening of 2 March. A high-ranking French Foreign Ministry official attended the meeting. Talks were held in an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding of the humanitarian and developmental needs of the Kurdish people with a view to helping them rebuild. Barzani explained in detail the Kurdish people's deteriorating living conditions and their need for political and humanitarian aid. He thanked the French president, government, and people on behalf of the Kurdish people and the Kurdistan Front for their understanding of the Kurdish problem and their assistance in launching relief operations and providing protection.

Party leader Mas'ud Barzani was interviewed by French television's Channel 1 on 3 March. Most international news agencies, French newspapers, and Arab newspapers issued in France reported Barzani's meetings with Dumas.

Brother Mas'ud Barzani visited the Kurdish institute in Paris on 3 March and met with its staff.

20,000 'Spies' Sent to Kurdish Provinces

NC1303220192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] In order to cause confusion and disturbances within liberated Kurdistan [word indistinct], the ostracized regime recently [mu'akharan] sent 20,000 mercenaries working in his miserable intelligence and security services to the Governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, and Dahuk.

As soon as the [word indistinct] revolutionaries learned about this from sources informed of what is happening in the labyrinths of the Saddamite den, the Kurdistan Front deployed its troops along the important roads and approaches leading to these governorates and in their affiliated regions. Our people conducted large-scale search operations during which a number of spies and saboteurs were arrested. The criminal regime sent these spies and saboteurs to create chaos and strife in the homeland's northern area.

Preliminary interrogations of these hired men revealed a number of terrorist cells tasked with carrying out assassinations and bombings against leading Kurdish figures. The worn-out 'Aflaqite quarters sustained a great setback after their satanic scheme was uncovered.

Government Forces Shell Marshlands Region

LD1403180192 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), March 14, IRNA—Artillery blasts, as Saddam Husayn's armed forces continued to

pound Iraqi Arabs who have sought refuge in the southern marshlands, were heard all night in the Iranian border city of Bostan Friday. Reports from inside Iraq indicate the start of fresh persecutions against the country's majority Shiite population by the Ba'thist army.

Fighter planes, gunboats and heavy artillery continued to shell the vast labyrinthine marshlands stretching between al-'Amarah and al-Nasiriyah in southern Iraq. Many civilians have been martyred by the Ba'thist forces while going to the marshlands and the palm groves for routine work.

'Many Civilians' Killed

NC1503163892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Artillery fire was heard in the town of (Pistin) on the Iraq-Iran border two nights ago and continued yesterday morning, while forces of the defeated tyrant continued to shell the marshlands to which refugees fled after attacks by the tyrant's forces.

According to reports from the south the tyrant's forces have resumed persecuting and suppressing refugees in that area. Meanwhile, fighter planes, gunboats, and large-caliber artillery continue to pound the southern marshlands.

Reports affirm that these forces killed many civilians as they were going to work in the date groves.

Further on Tariq 'Aziz-UN Security Council Talks

'Aziz Gives CNN, BBC Interviews

JN1403105992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0948 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Report on CNN and BBC interviews with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by unidentified correspondents in New York City at the United Nations; dates not given]

[Text] New York, 14 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stated that the meetings with the Security Council were constructive and that an atmosphere of better understanding exists between Iraq and the Security Council.

During an interview with CNN in New York, he added that the current escalation on the part of the U.S. Administration is a unilateral position adopted to intimidate Iraq; it is not the Security Council's position.

The deputy prime minister noted that the Iraqi delegation had discussed extensive issues with the Council and had entered into technical negotiations with a special committee and with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. He also said that Iraq had agreed to hold further contacts and meetings in Iraq and Vienna to discuss all of these issues.

Tariq 'Aziz questioned the reason behind this fabricated and exaggerated escalation at a time when the results of these meetings are not yet final and at a time when a project [not further identified] and professional issues are being studied. Why this political escalation now?

'Aziz expressed his belief that this contradicts the general spirit that prevailed during the Council discussions.

The deputy prime minister added that the Iraqi delegation had affirmed to the Council Iraq's full cooperation within the limits of Iraqi sovereignty and within the limits of the various legal aspects which the delegation had explained to the Council. The delegation also asserted Iraq's agreement to continue to cooperate in an ethical manner.

As for permitting the committee assigned to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to carry out this task, Tariq 'Aziz said that he will not present an official response on this matter and that the issue is still premature. He did state, however, that this committee will return to Baghdad and that the Iraqis will cooperate with it in order to finalize various professional issues, such as discussions about the team's duties.

The deputy prime minister also told CNN that Iraq has in principle agreed to go to Vienna shortly and that meetings will be held with the IAEA in Vienna.

Tariq 'Aziz emphasized that many fabrications, allegations, and false stories exist with regard to Iraq's position on implementing the cease-fire resolution, as he had explained to the Security Council. He said that Iraq has shown complete readiness to implement Resolution 687 and he pointed out that there are two ways to do this: a practical, professional, and legitimate implementation of the resolution; and the penal side of implementation, which is politically motivated. Regrettably, the latter is the position adopted by the Western forces, particularly Britain and the United States.

The deputy prime minister concluded by noting that the other Council members do not share the view of these countries. They certainly insist on the complete implementation, but there is no problem with this, he added, for we have accepted the resolution and have indicated our readiness to cooperate with the Security Council in completely implementing it.

In another interview with the BBC's correspondent at the United Nations, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq can immediately start pumping more than 1 million barrels of oil per day to Turkey through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. He emphasized that Iraq's oil industry has recovered from the war.

An opportunity has been provided, he added, for us to explain at this level our real position for the first time. The Council members received direct knowledge of the facts because we explained these facts to them, as well as all of the information concerning various point pertaining to the implementation of Resolution 687.

In his interview with the BBC the deputy prime minister pointed out that the basic elements of this resolution have actually been implemented and that Iraq has done a great deal to ensure their implementation. These facts have deliberately been kept from the Council in order to cast doubts, make charges against Iraq, and exploit these doubts and charges to continue the economic siege. They are also being exploited as a political instrument to make threats against Iraq.

From this angle we can say that the Council has now become better aware of the situation than it was before the visit.

In replying to a question concerning Iraq's refusal to export its oil in accordance with Security Council conditions, the deputy prime minister said: We have not refused to export oil. In accordance with Resolution 687, we have the right to export oil. Had we been given this right without the objection of the U.S. and British Governments we would have begun to export oil last year, to ensure that the needs of our people are met. Moreover, we have not objected to some sort of UN role in this issue in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 687. Resolution 706, which they adopted, however differs in substance with Resolution 687. Hence, it is a new resolution with new provisions and conditions. It does not seek to ensure food and medicine supplies for the people of Iraq but rather to cover the expenses of the UN missions, to allocate a very large sum of money for the so-called reparations fund, and to put into effect a complicated mechanism for buying goods which practically prevents us from doing so.

The deputy prime minister emphasized the Iraqi people's commitment to their leadership. He said: Iraq knows this leadership very well because it has been leading the country for 23 years. It is also aware of the huge material and moral accomplishments that this leadership has achieved for Iraq. He said that the Iraqi people scorn statements by British and U.S. leaders, as well as any intervention in Iraq's internal affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz stated: If British Prime Minister Major intends to use his anti-Iraqi statements as election propaganda material, then I think his behavior is silly. I permit myself to use this expression because it gives an exact description of the situation. Major will put himself into a difficult situation because he will not attain these hopes. The Iraqi people do not accept having their leadership imposed from outside.

'Aziz Meets Russian, PRC Envoys

JN1303202092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 13 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today met separately with the ambassadors of two permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The deputy prime minister conferred with Russia's Valentin Lozinskiy and then with Li Daoyu of the PRC. Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, attended the two meetings.

The deputy prime minister has thus met with the representatives of 13 permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council, with the exception of the United States, Britain, and France.

'Aziz, UN Head To Resume Oil Talks

JN1403093992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0901 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] United Nations, 14 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held two separate meetings last night, one with the UN Security Council president and the other with the UN secretary general.

Following his meeting with Diego Arria, Security Council president and Venezuela's permanent representative, Tariq 'Aziz told reporters that he had thanked the Council president for administering the Security Council meetings in which Iraq's delegation had participated.

The deputy prime minister later met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali.

This is the second time that Tariq 'Aziz has met with the Security Council president and the UN secretary general during his current visit to the United Nations.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative; and Riyad al-Qays, director of the Organizations Department in the Foreign Ministry, took part in the two meetings.

An INA correspondent has cited the official UN spokeswoman as saying that the UN secretary general and Tariq 'Aziz agreed to resume negotiations in Vienna on the exporting of Iraqi oil.

'Technical Reasons' Stall POW Swap With Iran

AU1403175292 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Geneva, March 14 (AFP)—Iraq and Iran on Saturday failed to resume the exchange of their last prisoners of war (POWs) for "technical reasons," a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

Spokesman Claude Voillat told AFP the ICRC was doing all it could to bring about a "speedy repatriation of all the prisoners," said to number in the thousands. But the two countries failed to resume the exchange as planned Saturday for "technical reasons."

He did not elaborate.

Iran and Iraq agreed last month in a meeting here under Red Cross auspices to resume the exchanges and give each other information on the fate of people listed as missing since the eight-year war which ended in August 1988. [passage omitted]

'Heavy' Rains Delay Exchange

JN1503201792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1852 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Al-Mundhiriyah, 15 Mar (INA)—The repatriation of Iraqi POW's was postponed for a second time today. The process was supposed to have been carried out yesterday.

An INA correspondent in al-Mundhiriyah said that the reason for the postponement is not yet known. He added, however, it is widely believed that the poor weather conditions prevailing in the region today had something to do with the postponement. This is because driving on roads has become difficult due to the heavy rainfall. This caused some road accidents, he maintained.

The correspondent pointed out that the process of receiving the POW's was scheduled to have been completed yesterday, Saturday. That date has been postponed, however, because the Iranian side did not complete preparations for this process.

The INA correspondent noted that contacts are still under way between the two sides through the International Committee of the Red Cross to complete the repatriation of the Iraqi POW's held in Iran as soon as possible, in implementation of the agreement recently reached in Geneva between Iraq and Iran.

Shamir: Arms Reports 'Lies and Libelous Tales'

TA1603123592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Honored by the presence of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, a memorial service was held today in Kibbutz Tel Hay to mark the death in combat of Yosef Trumpeldor and his colleagues in 1920. Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Hecht] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir noted the special significance of the ceremony today, seven days after Menahem Begin's death. Just like Trumpeldor, Begin wholeheartedly believed that the Israeli people should take its fate into its own hands and defend itself, he said.

[Shamir] Today, too, enemies from far and near covet the land of the Galilee. However, they know, too, that they have missed the train. The Israeli people has demarcated the boundaries with the blood of its heroic sons, and we will never budge from this place. [passage omitted]

[Hecht] Commenting on current affairs, the prime minister referred to the crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Shamir] First of all, these are lies and libelous tales. I hope this wave will soon pass.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, who do you think the U.S. sources are?

[Shamir] I do not know who they are, but I hope this situation will soon be over.

[Hecht] The prime minister emphasized that Israel meticulously abides by all the regulations governing arms sales. All the reports are lies and malicious libel, he stated. [end recording]

[A related report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 16 March notes that the prime minister added "that he is confident that the Arab countries engaged in talks with Israel will pursue the process despite all the difficulties."]

Arens Denies Sale of Patriot Technology

TA1503053692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens will protest to Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker over reports in the U.S. media that Israel has sold U.S. technology to the Third World. Jerusalem officials told our political correspondent Arye Golan that the Bush administration has always wanted to dismantle the special relationship between Israel and the United States. They recalled that when George Bush was vice president, he demanded on several occasions that sanctions be imposed on Israel.

Minister Arens reiterated last night the denial that Israel sold Patriot missile technology to the PRC, but admitted for the first time that Israel's military industry is selling products to China.

Defense establishment sources again denied U.S. reports that Israel has without permission sold arms and technology to the Third World. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to these sources, the U.S. offensive against Israel is not coincidental. It is based both on political considerations and competition for arms markets, they said.

'Rage and Frustration' at Latest Reports

TA1403202792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Rage and frustration are surging in Jerusalem in the wake of the concentrated anti-Israeli offensive launched by the American media. While every reasonable member of Israeli upper echelons has already despaired of obtaining loan guarantees before the elections here and in the United States, local political echelons describe the arms sales affair as a new record in the string of attempts to defame in a bid to achieve political concessions. At the same time, the affair represents a new low in Israeli-U.S. relations.

Senior officials categorically deny the media reports alleging weapons sales in violation of agreements. But, beyond that, it is believed in Jerusalem that the entire affair was orchestrated by one source—probably the U.S. State Department: It serves to divert U.S. public attention from the sorry failure to intercept the Syria-bound Scud ships. It also serves as a background for the Israeli defense minister's visit to the United States.

Participants in the closed meetings held at government offices during the weekend mentioned King Husayn, who joined forces with Saddam only a year ago and who was just received with roses in Washington. Husayn's visit is compared with Israel's situation then and today, and a senior source said tonight: Bush's and Baker's brief visit to the Israeli Embassy in the United States, which was meant to be a final tribute to Menahem Begin, does not move us. They want to show they are not really against Israel, merely against its present government and against the settlements. Today, added the source, the administration wants quiet in our region, it wants oil to flow without interruption to the West, and it wants Israel to do its share toward that end.

This is the situation. There are hardly any expectations that the rift will be mended soon; perhaps the opposite.

Our army affairs correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the Python-3 missile was developed fully by REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] and contains no American components. The Mapatz [laser-guided antitank missile] was also developed and manufactured by

the Israel Military Industries. Defense sources, who spoke with our correspondent, expressed amazement at the U.S. reference to the use of American technologies, although these missiles are fully Israeli-made.

Defense Complex To Reduce Dependency on U.S.

TA1503185592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Israeli sources have rejected each and every allegation appearing in the U.S. media regarding the export of weapons technology from Israel. In a meeting with army affairs correspondents, the sources said that the defense establishment was acting to establish alternative sources from which to purchase components for weapons and ammunition systems in order to reduce Israel's dependency on receiving prior U.S. permission to sell arms.

The sources described the reports about the sale of Patriot and Arrow missile technology as vicious, and dismissed them as stupidity of the first degree.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports: At some time in the future, Israeli sources said, we shall begin purchasing components from other countries, mainly from France. Then, we shall no longer need prior permission from the United States to sell weapons. The defense establishment is already seeking alternative sources. We have a certain policy, the sources said, noting that Israel did not sell weapons systems with U.S. components to third countries without first receiving a permit to do so after going through the accepted procedure. The sources asserted that in certain instances in which the media claimed that Israel had violated agreements by selling weapon systems, Jerusalem had received written permission from the United States to go ahead. For example, Israel has a U.S. permit from 2 December 1986 to export the Mapatz antitank missile, which was produced by the Israel Military Industries. We removed the U.S. components from missiles we exported to those countries for which we had not received prior U.S. permission, the sources claimed.

As far as management, organization, and monitoring goes, Israel's supervision over its defense exports is among the best in the world, and perhaps even the strictest. Each company's director general feels personally responsible for this matter. The sources described the reports about the transfer of Patriot and Arrow technologies as vicious and stupid. The sources asserted that Israel did not transfer any missiles. Nor did it supply any know-how or technology, and it also has no intention of doing so. Moreover, the Chinese did not ask for anything of the sort. Israel learned about the matter for the first time from the reports in the U.S. media, the sources said, noting that the defense establishment has no desire to place all the U.S. defense aid to Israel at risk.

As for the Python-3 missile, the weapon has been operational since 1979, and Israel has been exporting it for 10 years. As for the Mapatz antitank missile, Israel acted in accordance with U.S. permits. The Popeye missile has been operational since 1983. The Americans have known about it only since 1987. The missile is an exclusively Israeli invention. Only later did Israel and the United States cooperate to upgrade the missile. The contract between the two countries expressly stipulated that the development and technology of the missile are Israeli.

Israel's defense exports are very important, the sources said. They asserted that if Israel's defense exports were harmed, its qualitative edge would be affected. This smear campaign is completely out of all proportion. The U.S. inspector did not request Israel to supply any answers, and we were therefore unable even to defend ourselves against the allegations. This is a deliberate attempt to apply pressure on Israel, but it does not mean that the administration has launched an all-out campaign against Israel, the sources said. They asked why the UN investigative committees had not published the names of the companies that had aided Iraq, including those of the U.S. companies that supplied Baghdad with chemical weapons equipment and know-how and helped Iraq extend the range of its Scud missiles.

Ministers, Others React to Reports on Arms Sales

Levi Hopes To Reduce 'Tension'

TA1503161492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Today the cabinet chose not to discuss the U.S. offensive against Israel over the question of the export of U.S. weapons technology to other countries. Likewise, the cabinet ignored the issue of the guarantees, preferring to devote its weekly debate to forming a united front against the guarantors bill which is on the Knesset agenda.

After the meeting, however, the ministers did not choose to remain silent on the question of the Israeli-U.S. relations. [passage omitted]

Minister Moshe Qatzav defined the arms sales reports as malicious, while Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said the reports and those behind the reports were out to befoul the Israeli-U.S. relations and to besmirch Israel's reputation in the United States.

Foreign Minister David Levi, however, tried to present the crisis in a less negative light. Occasional disagreements exist, he said, but we must not forget that the United States is our greatest friend. Coming out of a meeting with the visiting New Zealand foreign minister, Levi promised that Israel would take action toward eliminating the misunderstandings with the U.S. Administration.

[Begin Levi recording] As for everything to do with Israel and with the ways it can influence the situation, it will do

whatever it can to reduce suspiciousness and tension and to bring the relations and the dialogue between the two countries back to a positive and sincere track. [end recording]

Not all the ministers shared Foreign Minister Levi's optimism. Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu anticipated a gloomy future with respect to the feasibility of Israel's receiving any U.S. aid whatsoever in the coming decade.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] Despite our desire to receive the guarantees, and despite the importance we accord to the U.S. aid, we must realize that because of causes that are not political at all, because of U.S. domestic and economic considerations, we are entering a decade at the end of which I believe we will no longer be able to rely on U.S. aid. Also, we have discovered that economic dependence creates political dependence and that political independence is impossible without economic independence. [end recording]

Is this a crisis or a mere misunderstanding? All the remarks we have heard on the issue were made, as stated, outside the cabinet meeting. The cabinet itself did not deem it necessary to address this question today.

Netanyahu Sees U.S. 'Campaign'

TA1503071792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpts] [Einstein] Good morning, Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Einstein] Do you back the evaluation that somebody in the administration is deliberately trying to harm Israel's image in the United States?

[Netanyahu] I do not know who is behind the leaks we have seen in the past few days, but one thing is clear. They are growing, and there is a regular pattern, although they are totally false. In other words, there is an obvious campaign aimed at denigrating Israel and sabotaging its relations with the United States, but I cannot tell you who is behind it. I can only tell you the aim of the campaign.

[Einstein] Why is somebody trying to fish for arms in those murky waters?

[Netanyahu] We have witnessed from time to time in the past that when a senior Israeli official arrives in the United States such things take place, and that is what is happening this time with the arrival of the defense minister. I can only tell you that Israel honors its agreements with the United States on the export of arms technology, and we will try to make the Americans see that. Defense Minister Arens will meet with Secretary Cheney in the coming days, and they will probably manage to clear up the situation. What is important in my view is that we are deviating from the main issue. The problem is not Israeli sales outside the Middle East—since, as I said, we honor agreements—but the flow, which is growing all the time, of devastating Western arms to the Middle East.

[Einstein] Yes, but why are they trying to incite and direct the fire at Israel? Do you believe, as the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee said, that it is intervention in the Israeli elections aimed at harming the Likud?

[Netanyahu] I do not know. I can only say with certainty that harming Israel means damaging it on several levels, harming its status as a reliable ally that honors agreements and perhaps curtailing its ability to compete with arms sales by others, such as massive arms sales from the West—including the United States—to the Middle East. One thing I cannot tell you is who is behind it.

[Einstein] But all that is coming from our traditional great friend, our benefactor. What is happening?

[Netanyahu] First, you do not know, and I cannot tell you, who is behind it. The U.S. Administration is very large, with many echelons and lots of agencies and officials. I would therefore not rush and tell you where it comes from.

[Einstein] You are not prepared to point to any specific echelon, unlike some Jerusalem sources, who even point to the President or Secretary Baker?

[Netanyahu] I told you, I do not know who is behind it. I can say one thing. Today, were I looking at the situation from an American angle and saw Scud-C missiles going to Syria, long-range missiles going to Libya, and chemical and nuclear technologies going to those countries and to Iraq—a massive flow of Western and non-Western arms to those uncompromising dictatorships, whose policies are based on fanatical ideologies and which could use those arms to attack not only Israel but the entire West, including Europe—that is where I would see the danger. That is what the United States, as leader of the free world, should concentrate on. That is the danger to the entire world, both the free world and the other countries. Instead, we are witnessing a campaign focused on us, a campaign that is without foundation and that contributes nothing to the defense of mankind. On the contrary, it diverts us from the main issue.

[Einstein] What, in fact, is the aim of whoever is conducting this campaign? Are you prepared to make a guess, to try to understand?

[Netanyahu] I think there is a clear attempt to undermine Israel's credibility before U.S. public opinion and its ability to operate in the U.S. arena for the important purposes of maintaining its security and the technologies required for that.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 15 March reports that "the tendentious reports about Israeli exports of military technologies are part of the smear campaign aimed at forcing Israel to make political concessions, political sources in Jerusalem say, blaming the U.S. Administration."]

[Einstein] That takes us to the next issue, which is the loan guarantees, on which Israel is conducting a struggle with the U.S. Administration. I would like you to hear the report on Senators Patrick Leahy and Robert Kasten, who worked out a compromise formula on the issue and will present it to President Bush and Secretary Baker. They suggest cutting from the loan guarantees the $150 million Israel has so far invested in settlements in the territories. [passage omitted] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, is that compromise acceptable to you?

[Netanyahu] I will not go into the details of the proposal. I am, of course, informed of what is happening in Congress, but we are in the midst of delicate negotiations and any off-the-cuff talk about it will not do any good.

I can say that in principle Israel and the prime minister have always thought it possible to reach an understanding with the United States on the basis of a simple compromise—that the money Israel raises with the loan guarantees will be used for the humanitarian purpose of absorbing the immigrants from the former USSR and not be diverted to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It would be easy for us to reach such an agreement; the details are unimportant now. The question is whether there is a political desire to reach an understanding, because in principle I have no doubt that it is possible.

[Einstein] And in light of that, we might link it to the issue with which we opened the interview. In view of the reports, the smear campaign, and the worsening relations with the United States, does it seem reasonable to you that there is a political will to reach an understanding with us on that?

[Netanyahu] I do not necessarily link the two things, but we will find out very quickly if there is such a political desire. We must understand that we are in the midst of a pressure campaign. Prime Minister Shamir has shown that he can withstand pressures. Like him, we must remain coolheaded. In fact, despite the periodic storms that batter Israeli-U.S. relations, they are often only on the surface, and beneath there is a much more stable and tougher foundation in the positive sense of reciprocity and shared values. It finds expression in the attitude of Congress and even in the attitude of others inside the administration. I would therefore not make haste to eulogize the relationship. I would also say that whoever leads this country must withstand pressures from time to time, remaining capable of withstanding them and of standing firm on Israel's vital interests. I believe the prime minister does that.

Arms Sales Subcommittee Chairman

TA1503091492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Major General (Reserve) Yehoshu'a Sagi, chairman of the Subcommittee on Arms Sales of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Sagi] Good morning.

[Friedman] When you read in the newspapers all those detailed leaks about what they call Israel's illegal arms sales, do you see anything you did not already know about?

[Sagi] I am finding out a lot of things I did not know about. In other words, the leaks I read and hear about are malicious and deliberate.

[Friedman] We are not dealing with motives yet, first the facts.

[Sagi] I would like to say that the State of Israel has been selling arms for many years. This fact is public knowledge and is well-known. The State of Israel has agreements with the United States in which not only U.S.-manufactured arms, but also arms containing U.S. technological components of even the most minute quantities or U.S. know-how require U.S. permission for export. The State of Israel makes 100-percent sure not to deviate from that rule because there are no secrets in arms sales. The outcome of such a mistake by Israel could be very grave. Israel knows that and does not break the rules.

[Friedman] That is so unless you do not have all the information, and even the chairman of a Knesset subcommittee is circumvented on that.

[Sagi] No, I do not believe that can happen. In the subcommittees, things are put on the table openly. Sometimes there are even arguments there. It is not a question of hiding information. I do not under any circumstances believe that information can be hidden about that. Also, anybody who hides information today knows that it will surface in another six months or a year or two.

[Mardor] Some of the Israeli reactions in the press do not say we do not sell arms....

[Sagi, interrupting] I am also not saying so.

[Mardor] ...but that we sell arms manufactured by us. The Americans cannot claim it is theirs and order us not to sell it.

[Sagi] The State of Israel, like any other sovereign country in the world, has the right to sell the products it

manufactures. If it is responsible for the development and for all the components inside, it is free of any ban on technological exports.

[Friedman] But there is a problem. The Americans claim, at least according to the reports, that the Python-3 air-to-air missile is a copy of their Sidewinder and that the Mapatz antitank missile is a duplicate of the U.S. TOW [tube-launched optically tracked wire-guided missiles]. In other words, the basic technology is American and the development is Israeli, which means it falls within the restrictions Israel has undertaken toward the United States.

[Sagi] No, it is true they say that about the Sidewinder, and it is an argument that has been going on for 30 years and has still not ended. In my view, with my knowledge of the subject, I tell you that there is no similarity between the two. The claim that the TOW is similar to the Mapatz is like saying the SS-11 and SS-10 are in some way similar to the Mapatz, since both are antitank missiles.

[Friedman] On the Arrow, there is not even any room for comment because if Israel did transfer Arrow technology to South Africa and the technology is funded by the United States, there is an outright violation.

[Sagi] Israel did not transfer any Arrow technology to South Africa. Israel has stood by the agreement since it undertook not to sign new commercial agreements with South Africa and has not done so.

[Mardor] What about the transfer of information about the Patriot to the PRC?

[Sagi] That is utter nonsense. In my view, that is precisely the issue. That is an example of the malice in the whole thing, since what does transferring Patriot information to the PRC mean? Did we take a Patriot with its sophisticated radar system and transfer it to China? That can be checked any moment here.

[Mardor] We do not, however, deny that we supply arms to the PRC.

[Sagi] I am not denying anything. All I am saying is that Israel has the right to export equipment that it has manufactured and developed but that does not contain critical components classified by the Americans, anywhere in the world. Otherwise we will not compete over anything in the world.

[Mardor] Perhaps you can clarify to us something interesting that has cropped up here. Why does Israel supply arms to the PRC, which is an important arms supplier to the Arabs?

[Sagi] That is a completely different question, a political issue. It has nothing to do with the U.S. issue. By the way, the Americans do exactly the same thing, perhaps not with the Chinese, but everywhere else in the world, but also with the Chinese. [sentence as heard]

[Friedman] But the Americans say: Israel sells missile technology to the PRC, which sells that same technology to Iraq, and Iraq uses it against Israel and the United States.

[Sagi] I tell you that Israel does not sell missile technology to the PRC. It does not need it. China preceded Israel in missile development.

[Friedman] That is correct.

[Sagi] So what are you talking about?

[Friedman] What about other technology Israel sells, which is later used against the United States?

[Sagi] I have not heard that the United States and the PRC are currently at war, and I did not know that there is a ban on other U.S. exports to the PRC. On the export of classified equipment, such as supercomputers, Israel is not receiving any and not exporting any. So what is all the fuss about? We are talking about an obvious U.S. desire to reach a situation in which Israel or its defense minister is pushed into a corner and has to defend itself the moment Mr. Arens lands in the United States. Tomorrow morning the demand will be very simple. There is a political problem which has to be resolved. How? We will do everything to resolve it, they will say.

[Mardor] The United States is now threatening sanctions on arms supplies to Israel. Do you see it as a real threat or as political pressure?

[Sagi] It is a threat that enables the media to create public opinion hostile to Israel wherever possible, but it is not implemented because the military aid the United States provides Israel is also providing work in the United States. I have not heard that there is no unemployment in the United States today.

[Friedman] What you are saying is that the Americans have included irrelevent considerations, while the facts are completely different. The Americans say they might send an investigating team to Israel. Would you recommend that all the information be made available to them?

[Sagi] I am certain that all the information will be made available to them even if I do not recommend it. I say that based on my previous job [as chief of military intelligence] and not as a Knesset member. Israel has been much more open with the United States than any other country in the world and has paid a price for that.

[Friedman] The question is whether the Americans have been convinced. Thank you, Knesset Member Sagi.

Olmert Sees Deliberate 'Besmirching'

TA1503112292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by political correspondent Arye Golan, following the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 15 March—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] U.S. media reports on Israel's sale of U.S. technologies to Third World countries triggered cabinet ministers' comments, not during the weekly cabinet meeting, but outside the meeting hall, upon the ministers' exit. Several ministers reacted sharply to the reports. Minister Moshe Qatzav defined the reports as malicious, while Minister Olmert talked of a U.S. desire to besmirch Israel.

Minister Olmert, who stands behind the U.S. leaks about Israel's sale of U.S. technologies to Third World countries?

[Olmert] Look, I cannot point to a certain source, nor is this something you can clearly point to. Still, I have no doubt that this affair did not come about without the desire of a senior U.S. Administration element who caused it to be publicized.

[Golan] What does this element want to achieve?

[Olmert] What he is in fact achieving: everybody's preoccupation with this affair, the impression that Israel is harming U.S. interests, and the public and international besmirching of the State of Israel.

[Golan] In your opinion, is there no wish in this to influence election results in Israel in the summer?

[Olmert] Whether or not this is the intention, an objective analysis of the situation may indeed lead to such a conclusion. Namely, whoever does such a thing necessarily takes into account the possibility that it will be used for internal political struggles. Thus, this element should be aware of, should understand the significance of what he is doing.

[Golan] What operational conclusion should the government and the prime minister draw from your analysis, sir?

[Olmert] In my opinion, the conclusion is more extensive and far-reaching than an attempt to focus on any certain political dispute. The problems that the State of Israel is facing vis-a-vis the U.S. Administration today are not tied to a dispute over a certain political move, and therefore, in my opinion, their solution cannot come as a result of an understanding or agreement on one move or another. The current administration's world view is totally different from what we have been used to in the past. Their emphases are different. Therefore, whether we freeze or do not freeze settlements, whether we take or refrain from taking a certain move—those who believe that this will lead to a change in the basic fabric of relations between the current administration and the State of Israel are deluding themselves. We live in a different world, and we should get used to new rules.

[Golan] What can cause a change? Will this be the downfall of Bush and the rise to power of another U.S. president?

[Olmert] No, I will not say anything that may be interpreted so objectively, even though I do not mean it. Therefore, I do not want to address myself to the internal U.S. political arena.

Envoy to U.S. Sees 'Pure Slander'

TA1403103192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, in Washington by 'Adi Talmor in Tel Aviv on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Talmor] Good morning, Ambassador Shoval.

[Shoval] Good morning.

[Talmor] Sir, is it merely a coincidence that the unprecedented U.S. attack on Israel regarding the sale of arms and U.S. weapons technology to Third World countries came just as Defense Minister Moshe Arens began his visit to the United States?

[Shoval] I do not know. I cannot read people's minds. I do not know whether there is any intention or, God forbid, some deliberate plot behind these reports. All this has, of course, made us very angry. I would like to reiterate something the defense minister has already said: These reports are totally baseless. At any rate, I consider this a scandalous affair from the U.S. point of view. If somebody leaked the report to the press—in other words, if an administration official handed inaccurate information to the media—then this is outrageous. It is also scandalous from a media point of view for a newspaper, which purports to be a serious source of information, to publish and distribute such a report in the way it did. Israel will pursue the matter to the best of its ability.

[Talmor] Now, however, there have already been several reports claiming that Israel struck deals with several countries. Some people have described these charges as more serious than the Pollard affair and as having graver ramifications for Israeli-U.S. relations. Do you subscribe to this assessment?

[Shoval] Look, administration officials have also made efforts to quash this report. CNN has just reported that the Pentagon spokesman said that there is no proof that Israel supplied the PRC with information, missiles, or anything connected to the Patriot system.

[Talmor] But we have also heard about deals with South Africa, for example?

[Shoval] Look, when papers get busy, the ink flies and everybody adds something. I do not want to comment on the source of these reports. There may well be a hidden agenda behind all this. We are not naive. Whether there is indeed some agenda, one somehow linked to the defense minister's visit or not—since, as you well know, there are other issues that Israel and the United States disagree over—what must be stressed is that these allegations are totally baseless. Relations between our two countries are close enough to enable us to investigate any suspicions in a friendly manner, without letting them reach the media in this way. I would like to hope that

senior administration officials will make efforts today, as some have already indeed begun to do, to sweep these libelous allegations off the public agenda. I repeat that this is pure slander.

[Talmor] I would still like you to answer my first question. You yourself said that some kind of intention lurked behind the reports. Can you give us some kind of an idea what kind? After all, you are the ambassador to Washington.

[Shoval] I said that this was a possibility.

[Talmor] But you do not know for sure?

[Shoval] No, I do not know for sure. I do not want to cast suspicion on people who may be innocent.

[Talmor] One of the estimates is that this is an attempt to undermine the negotiations over the loan guarantees, which appear to be faltering.

[Shoval] Well, there can be various different assessments, but whoever leaked this lie, for whatever reasons, has certainly not contributed to better relations between the two countries. Neither Israel nor the United States will benefit from this.

[Talmor] Have you tried to investigate this matter more thoroughly with the Administration, beyond what has already been said?

[Shoval] No. Obviously, I am not a detective. The U.S. officials we are in contact with have expressed their anger with these reports, not at the actual report itself but rather at the way it has appeared in the media. I hope that this was not mere lip service on their part.

[Talmor] Where, or what do you think this story is leading to?

[Shoval] This depends to a great extent on the top levels of the U.S. Government. The administration can categorically declare that these reports are lies and thus nip the whole thing in the bud. I hope that it will do so. Israel, at any rate, will demand that it do this.

[Talmor] Incidentally, there were reports there that Baker has already threatened to stop aid to Israel if it does not stop transferring technological information about missiles to South Africa. What do you know about this?

[Shoval] No. We held contacts in the distant past on various issues regarding the transfer of technological information or exports, or about suspicions that such exports had taken place. The whole matter was settled to the mutual satisfaction of both countries a long time ago.

[Talmor] As we have already mentioned the negotiations on the loan guarantees, I would like to remind you that you said that the Israeli Government will have to give up on some of its principles. This does not appear to the case right now.

[Shoval] The Israeli Government or any self-respecting government does not have to abandon its principles. We are not talking about relinquishing principles. We are talking about the question of whether a way can be found to bridge the gaps between the principles, or let us say the conflicting policies of Israel and the United States. This is the issue under discussion. By the way, negotiations are not being held now. Right now, the leaders of the Senate are negotiating the issue with the administration, and we are not a part of these discussions. They are trying to find a mutually acceptable formula regarding the guarantees and the foreign aid bill in general. When we see what they have agreed upon, or what they can eventually agree upon, the Israeli Government will voice its position.

[Talmor] In conclusion, Ambassador Shoval, I would like to ask you if you know what Defense Minister Arens is going to discuss with the secretary of defense, with increasing reports of an impending U.S. attack on Iraq hovering in the background?

[Shoval] We do not know the U.S. plans. I imagine that the two defense ministers will discuss issues relevant to both countries. There are a great many such issues, and I assume that the two men will manage to shrug off the irritating reports that have been published the past few days, because the joint security interests of Israel and the United States are important to both countries.

[Talmor] From your vantage point in Washington, do you sense an impending war?

[Shoval] It is hard to point to such a feeling. However, this does not mean anything.

[Talmor] Thank you, Ambassador Shoval.

Nisim: Leaks Will Backfire in Elections

TA1603062992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Minister Moshe Nisim has said that Israel meticulously abides by its obligations toward the United States with regard to arms sales. He cited as an example the Kfir planes, mounted with U.S.-made engines, which are sold only with U.S. approval.

In an interview this morning, Minister Nisim said that the leaks about arms sales are meant to humiliate Israel and discredit it in the eyes of the public and are based on ulterior motives. He is confident that a U.S. attempt to meddle in the election campaign in Israel will prove to be counterproductive and will trigger a harsh reaction on the part of the voters.

Shamir Aide, Knesset Committee Head

TA1403185292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Another U.S. paper, this time THE WASHINGTON POST, has alleged that Israel improperly sold American weapons technology to other countries. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's spokesman Ehud Gol this afternoon denied the reports, calling them groundless.

The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, says the U.S. Administration's charges concerning Israeli weapon sales are an organized smear campaign designed to divert the attention of the American people from their government's blunders. Ben-Elisar said the charges were also part of America's attempt to influence election results in Israel.

Likud Group 'Vehemently Protests'

TA1603104692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The Likud faction executive vehemently protests the leaks originating in Washington regarding Israel's arms sales and defense exports. Sara Doron, the executive's chairman, said that this is a transparent attempt to affect the outcome of the elections in Israel. Executive member Yehoshu'a Matza stated that U.S. newspapers, resorting to the methods used by PRAVDA, quote tendentious leaks designed to besmirch Israel without checking them first. [passage omitted]

Arens: No 'Folded Arms' If Iraq Attacks Again

TA1503072292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said last night that if Iraq attacks Israel with Scud missiles we will not sit by with folded arms this time.

Conditions for Holding Peace Talks in U.S. Noted

TA1503194592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Israel would be willing to participate in another round of peace talks in Washington on the condition that it is agreed beforehand that the following round will be closer to our region.

Our political correspondent reports that this transpires from the contacts held by Israel and the United States on this matter. The next round of peace talks is scheduled to begin at the end of April, between Passover and Independence Day [24 April and 7 May]. There may be yet another round of talks before the elections in June.

Shamir Aide Views Relations With U.S.

TA1603114392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, says he does not know of any delay in the payment of American aid to Israel, and the reports of such a delay appear to be due to a mistake of the news media.

On the other hand, Ben-Aharon says, certain people in the administration have made it their business to cause tension and friction with Israel. Our diplomatic reporter Jack Katzenell asked Ben-Aharon how the persistent anti-Israel leaks could take place without the knowledge and approval of President Bush and Secretary Baker:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] I am convinced that the leaders of the administration—the President and the secretary of state—have no intention to introduce friction in relations between the United States and Israel, but because we are facing a number of important issues, such as the loan guarantees, which have raised some elements of misunderstanding with regards to the issue of settlements and their role, with regards to the loan guarantees and with regards to the peace process, there may have been some functionaries in the administration who have taken it upon themselves to leak information that may or may not have any grain of truth to it, in order to introduce a distance between the United States and Israel. If this is the case, we are truly sorry, and we hope that measures will be taken to prevent such occurrences and to bring about a strengthening and a deepening of the relationship between our two countries, which I think is important to both sides.

[Katzenell] Do you think that the special relationship between Israel and the United States is in jeopardy?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not. I think the special relationship is so deep and so long-standing, and it meets with the interests of both countries to such an extent, that even such occurrences that have taken place in recent days will not undermine them.

Nevertheless, there is need for both sides to address themselves to these recent developments, to remove them from the agenda, and to focus on important things for us. These are: stability, the security of Israel and of the entire Middle East, and, of course, the peace process, which is vital to our interests and our future, as well as to the interests of the United States. [end recording]

Levi, Shamir Set Team To Fix Likud Differences

TA1203125192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan and Israel Television's party affairs correspondent Hayim 'Azran at the end of Levi's meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 12 March—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Levi, how was the meeting with the prime minister?

[Levi] It was a serious meeting. All the issues awaiting a solution were raised. The situation is not simple; it is rather serious. I hope that all those involved will evince utmost responsibility and that solutions will be found which will, to a great extent, determine the principles of

our work and cooperation in the future. We decided to set up a team made up of representatives of both sides as soon as possible in order to promote and discuss ideas and solutions. I hope agreements will be reached once the team meets, and then we will know where we stand.

[Golan] Did the prime minister in principle accept your demand to include 32 percent of the Levi camp's members in the Likud's institutions and the next government, if it is set up by the Likud, compatible with the support you won in the internal election?

[Levi] By any standards, it is legitimate and normal to demand representation compatible with the balance of power that emerged in the internal election. In any case, this issue will also be discussed by the joint team.

[Golan] Sir, did Mr. Shamir propose to you to head Likud election campaign headquarters?

[Levi] He did indeed, but all these matters will be discussed as a single package.

[Golan] Did you agree to take the job?

[Levi] I repeat: All these matters will be discussed as a single package rather than piecemeal.

[Golan] Today's papers mentioned that you will demand that members of your camp be promoted to higher places in the Likud's Knesset list. Did you?

[Levi] I did not make such a demand.

['Azran] Could the Likud's list of candidates be changed in the wake of your decision to establish a joint team and of the realignment and agreement you are expecting?

[Levi] I did not raise such a question, and I will not dwell on it. I can only say that the prime minister mentioned it, not I. The principles I am talking about transcend this question, and they should enable the party to function in the future. As far as the balance of power is concerned, we should leave it to the team to deal with it.

['Azran] There was a feeling in the air that the Likud was on the verge of breaking up and that the so-called Levi camp would secede from the Likud and set up another entity. Has this threat vanished now?

[Levi] Nobody heard such a threat from me. Indeed, many colleagues subscribe to such a view, but I have said that it makes my skin crawl. Such views attest to the resentment felt by many colleagues in view of the forces that converged against my camp in a bid to crush it. This is the plain truth. It remains to be seen if the situation can be amended through recognition of our relative strength and our inclusion in all areas. In any event, such a possibility has not been rejected out of hand.

[Golan] Were you impressed that Mr. Shamir is willing to rectify those things you think are wrong and unjust in the Likud?

[Levi] I have said what I had to say, and I will not dwell on what the prime minister told me. It is clear to him that a solution must be found as soon as possible. The so-called Levi camp represents a large section of the Likud and cannot be ignored with regard to all the issues you mentioned, such as the government, the party institutions, and so forth. Not only must it be taken into account in every issue, but it must also receive the representation it deserves in every field.

[Golan] Do you trust the prime minister to do that?

[Levi] I trust the agreements that will be reached by the team and which will be binding in the future.

[Golan] Sir, who will make up the team? Has it been agreed?

[Levi] Not yet.

Chief of Staff on Balance of Power With Syria

TA1003190392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq today visited IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in southern Israel and also toured the town of Sederot. He gave a lecture to local high school students and answered their questions. Baraq said that an understanding of the balance of power between Israel and Syria was one of the things that brought President al-Asad to the negotiating table. The chief of staff claimed that it was the IDF's power that had brought all the participants in the peace process to the negotiating table. The chief of staff was accompanied by our correspondent in the south, Nisim Qeynan.

[Begin recording] [Qeynan] Among the many other issues that were discussed during his meeting with Sederot high school students, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq also addressed the peace process. He said that after more than 40 years of war with the Arab countries and after the late Menahem Begin signed a peace treaty with Egypt, the other Arab countries have now finally reached the conclusion that they must negotiate political arrangements with Israel without setting prior conditions. This accomplishment, Baraq asserted, was partly thanks to the IDF's achievements on the battlefield.

[Baraq] This is a tremendous achievement. Their very readiness to negotiate—which does not stem solely from international developments and from the collapse and disintegration of the Soviet Union—was without a doubt partly the result of the IDF's achievements on the battlefield and of our neighbors' perception of Israel's military might. Despite the current international configuration, the Arabs would not have sat down to negotiate with us had it not been for the IDF's power. They would have come and tried to dictate forcibly the conditions of the Arab plan to us.

[Qeynan] The chief of staff added that the IDF's might would be required during the negotiation process to preclude any attempts to twist Israel's arm during the

bargaining around the negotiating table. Obviously, after such negotiations, Israel would need the IDF's power to uphold any agreement, if and when such an agreement is reached. It goes without saying that Israel would need the IDF if the negotiations fail. Regarding the balance of power with Syria, Chief of Staff Baraq asserted that Israel is in a good position; however, he preferred not to elaborate on this matter so as not to satisfy the Syrians' curiosity. [end recording]

Islamic Groups Condemn Murder of Soldiers

TA1203183992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 12 mar 92

[Text] Publicly and unreservedly, the Islamic Movement has disowned the suspects in the murder of the three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers at the Dotan camp. In a clarification letter to the prime minister, the chairman of the Forum of Local Council Heads-Members of the Islamic Movement stated that his movement is neither responsible for nor will it defend lawbreakers; only the lawbreakers should shoulder the consequences of their acts. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar adds:

Through Alex Bligh, his Arab affairs adviser, the prime minister continues to receive telegrams from representatives of the Arab public who sharply condemn the murder of the three IDF soldiers in Ramot Menashe about a month ago. Those expressing condemnation include heads of local councils and members of institutions that represent the entire political spectrum, ranging from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] to social organizations.

Still, the most interesting telegram or letter was sent by one of the Islamic Movement's leaders. The man, Kamil Rayan, who heads the Forum of Local Councils Heads-Members of the Islamic Movement, notes that the organization to which he belongs does not advocate violent acts, so the Islamic Movement is not responsible, nor will it be, for the conduct of lawbreakers who should personally shoulder the consequences of their actions. The importance of this explanation lies in the fact that the Islamic Movement openly disowns the suspects in the murder, despite their affiliation with the movement and its ideas. The movement also hints that its members do not intend to use violence to achieve their goals. Copies of this letter were addressed also to the defense, interior, and religious affairs ministers as well as to the Knesset speaker. Its wide circulation is apparently aimed at enlisting the aid of public opinion to preclude the possible outlawing of the Islamic Movement.

Further on King Husayn's Visit to Washington

Talks With Baker Detailed

JN1303123792 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] His majesty the king met with the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, last night for further discussion on the peace process. During the meeting, the king made his evaluation of the peace process and ways to advance it. Mr. Baker also made the U.S. Administration's own assessment of progress achieved so far in the peace process. He said the United States is committed to its position, which seeks to make the peace talks a success. He expressed his government's appreciation of Jordan's positive role under the king's leadership. Issues of common concern were also raised at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying his majesty.

King Discusses Settlements

JN1503074292 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] His majesty the king reiterated that Jewish settlements on the occupied territories are an obstacle to the path of peace. In an interview with CNN's Evans and Novak, his majesty said: The region cannot lose this chance for peace. The king described U.S.-Jordanian relations as that of mutual respect, warmth, and friendship.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] I believe that the warm relationship of friendship and mutual respect that has been going between Husayn, before you here today, and George Bush over many, many years, in my view, between the president of the United States and Husayn of Jordan, between our two countries, is well on its way to have gained, hopefully, the warmth, the understanding, the atmosphere of which we were once proud.

[Reporter] You have said that if the construction of settlements on the West Bank did not stop, you feared that might torpedo the peace talks. Have you hardened that position in the three meetings that the Israelis and the Palestinians have had, or have you softened it?

[Husayn] I have repeatedly suggested that the creation of new settlements and beefing up existing settlements at a time when there is a peace process to deal with the problem in all its aspects on the bilateral level and on the multilateral dimension is really creating new obstacles in the path of peace...

[Reporter, interrupting] But it continues. It does continue?

[Husayn] It does, it does, and this hopefully is something that will be addressed in some way, and at least give us all, therefore, the opportunity to deal with the substance and with the challenge that is before us.

[Reporter] Do you have any hope, any real hope that this process in the forseeable future is going to produce some kind of settlement?

[Husayn] I've always felt that it was going to take a long time to change people's minds, to get them to think beyond what they've been used to, to think of what peace can really offer, to break away from fortress mentalities. But, we've seen so much change in the world, and I think we, hopefully, will have learned that—all of us, Israel and all other sides, Palestinians, Jordanians, other Arabs—there must be peace. We cannot lose this chance, and we must ensure that we end up in success. [end recording]

Views Iraqi 'Plight'

JN1503075492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn Bin-Talal has expressed the hope that the United States will not use force again against Iraq. Although he voiced sympathy and solidarity with the Iraqi people's suffering, he did his best to alienate himself from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Interviewed by CNN, the Jordanian monarch hinted that it is the Iraqi president who is responsible for Iraq's current plight. He said the absence of democracy and popular participation in political life, and the absence of respect for human rights and pluralism, are some of the factors that explain the problems from which Iraq, and other states ruled by similar regimes, are suffering.

Alluding to the Iraqi president, the king said any leadership that allows itself to be treated like God and commits mistakes will reach a dead end. He reiterated that Jordan hopes that force will not be used to resolve the Iraqi crisis. The Jordanian monarch reaffirmed that his country is fully committed to the UN resolutions imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. He said his recent meeting with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was merely a courtesy meeting, and was surprised that this meeting had generated such media attention.

King Husayn stressed that his visit to Washington returned Jordanian-U.S. relations to their traditional close and intimate track. He also stressed the need to stop Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories, because they are an obstacle to peace. He also stressed the importance of not losing this opportunity to achieve peace in the region.

The king said the spread of the so-called Islamic fundamentalist movements in the region does not pose any danger to Jordan. However, he appeared to confirm reports that Saudi Arabia is financing some Islamic forces in Jordan when he said in reply to a question: I do not want to say anything about this point. However, financing any attempts to sabotage democracy or freedom or distort faith and religion is something

serious. I believe that if such a source exists, it will primarily harm itself. Asked again if he could confirm this, he said: I leave verification of this to you.

Official Terms Visit 'Positive'

JN1503110692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Mar 92 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, chief of the Jordanian Information Office in Washington, has said that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States was very good, that the general atmosphere was positive, and that the reception was warm. In a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: There is a feeling that relations between Jordan and the U.S. Administration have returned to what they were in the old days. In light of this, he said, the two sides agreed to continue to look forward toward the future.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir noted that the U.S. Administration expressed its appreciation and appraisal of the Jordanian position vis-a-vis the peace process during the four rounds of the peace negotiations with the Israelis. He said the two sides discussed methods to render the peace effort a success.

The Jordanian official added that the U.S. Administration expressed understanding of the economic problems which Jordan is facing, particularly after the return of more than 300,000 Jordanians from Kuwait and the Gulf states. The U.S. Administration promised to provide Jordan with the necessary support to help it cope with the difficult economic situation which Jordan is now experiencing, whether directly from its budget or by encouraging the international organizations to give financial support to Jordan.

In another development, King Husayn visited the Jordanian Information Office in the U.S. capital yesterday. He was briefed by Dr. al-Mu'ashshir on the activities undertaken by the office through its various branches. The king gave his instructions with regard to the progress of work at the office, affirming the need to deal with work priorities through modern methods.

The king affirmed the need to strengthen relations between the Jordanian Information Office and Jordanian students in the United States. His majesty expressed satisfaction with the activities of the office, particularly with the work of the branch that deals with the U.S. Congress. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Success 'By All Standards'

JN1503112592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 92 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Once Again on King Husayn's Successful Tour"]

[Text] During his tour of Western capitals, particularly Washington, His Majesty King Husayn clearly and frankly presented the dimensions of the Arab cause. He also defined the reasons for the deadlock in the peace process and the requirements for its success.

His Majesty King Husayn managed to convey the message of the Arab parties participating in the peace process to the U.S. Administration. He warned of the dangers threatening the region if the peace process fails.

His Majesty King Husayn focused on the resolutions of international legitimacy as the only way to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. He loudly warned of regional wars or armed conflicts in this vital part of the world. He also warned of the grave consequences of any military action in the region.

In his remarks to reporters, His Majesty King Husayn did not deny the fraternal relations linking Jordan and sisterly Iraq. He stressed that Jordan, which is linked to Iraq by fraternal Arab, Islamic, and historical relations based on common interests, mutual respect, and good neighborliness, cannot tighten the siege on the Muslim Arab people of Iraq or withhold food and medicine from its children.

As King Husayn said, Jordan is committed to the international resolutions inasmuch as its circumstances, interests, and relations with its brothers permit. His Majesty King Husayn was frank, clear, and brave when he dealt with the region's issues and presented his viewpoints about them. This gained the respect and appreciation of President Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker as well as the admiration of the leaders of Canada and Iceland.

During his meetings with President Bush, and earlier with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney and Icelandic officials, His Majesty King Husayn expressed very well the constants of the principled Jordanian and Arab stance that is based on the international legitimacy resolutions.

He noted that Israel does not respect these resolutions and is not committed to them. This requires direct and effective U.S., European, and international intervention to soften the Israeli intransigence. This also requires all kinds of political, economic, and moral pressures to force Israel to stop settlement activity, which is the most serious obstacle to bilateral negotiations and which is about to foil them.

It is noteworthy that President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have shown noticeable understanding of His Majesty King Husayn's viewpoint on the various issues that may disrupt the peace process. They affirmed their willingness to intervene in order to remove the obstacles and ensure the success of the peace process.

This confirms that King Husayn's tour was by all standards successful.

Relations on 'Normal Track'

JN1403103492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis Andoni in Washington]

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with U.S. President George Bush on Thursday has placed U.S.-Jordanian relations back on "the normal track" and underscored Jordan's importance to post-cold war regional stability and to the Middle East peace process, according to American and Arab analysts.

"The atmosphere was very healthy and friendly," Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir told the Jordan Times after the meeting. "The relationship has gone back to its normal state."

American officials and analysts said that even though the Jordanian stand during the Gulf war, mainly its refusal to join the international alliance against Iraq, remains "incomprehensible," the American administration officials believe that Jordan's role and stability remain too important to be jeopardised over past differences.

American and Arab analysts believe that a renewal of friendship between King Husayn and President Bush could pave the way for an inter-Arab reconciliation, especially between Jordan and the oil-rich Gulf states.

"The American message is that Jordan cannot be abandoned. This message might make some Arab governments reconsider their position vis-a-vis Jordan," said one Washington-based Arab political analyst, referring to the halt in Gulf states' financial aid to Jordan and forced explusion of tens of thousands of Jordanian expatriate workers.

A statement issued by the White House following the meeting said that the King has raised Jordan's economic difficulties aggravated by the influx of 300,000 men, women and children from the Gulf. The statement did not refer to the Gulf states' attitude towards Jordan but implied that the administration was taking the Kingdom's plight seriously. American analysts argue that it will take time for Gulf-Jordanian relations to resume their normal course, and will depend on the development of American-Jordanian relations.

In a significant gesture, and probably a signal to Congress which repeatedly raises questions about Jordan's adherence to the international embargo against Iraq, President Bush called King Husayn "my friend" in the presence of reporters prior to the meeting.

"I am just delighted to see His Majesty again," Mr. Bush said as he posed with the King for photographers in front of the Oval Office.

"For years we've had strong relations with Jordan—we know there were difficulties. He is my friend and I welcome him back," Mr. Bush said.

The U.S. president's remarks were interpreted here as an expression of willingness by the White House to open a new page in U.S.-Jordanian relations.

But American analysts warned that while Mr. Bush wants a new beginning, it will be more difficult to get Congress to abandon its criticism of Jordan's postion during the Gulf war and consequently to support financial aid for the Kingdom.

"Mr. Bush does not abandon his friends. But Congress is a different issue," said one American analyst, who is closely familiar with Jordanian-American relations.

The statement issued by the White House after the meeting, asserting both leaders' agreement on the importance of Iraq's full compliance with the U.N.-imposed sanctions, is believe to help placate Congress' tough position on Jordan.

But U.S. officials indicated that the American government will make sure that there will be "no sanctions-busting" as critics of Jordan here repeatedly claim.

Well-informed American analysts and sources close to the American government, however, say that Washington is aware that "leakage" across the Jordanian-Iraqi borders cannot be completely stopped but what really counts was the public Jordanian position.

"The administration is aware of the constraints and other factors at play," said an analyst who is well-informed on previous Jordanian-American contacts leading up to the King's visit. "Everybody knows that leakage across the borders cannot be totally stopped. But the administration seeking a Jordanian public assertion that Iraq should comply with all of the United Nations resolutions."

Jordan has continuously, and particularly recently, argued in favour of alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people. But according to a source close to the Jordanian government, since the United Nations Security Council resolutions are of mandatory nature, Jordan cannot take any position other than agree to a full Iraqi compliance.

In general there is still strong resentment in Congress and at the State Department and among some Middle Eastern experts of any public display of closeness between Iraq and Jordan.

When officials and analysts here are reminded that the Jordanian government has to consider broad resentment against the starvation of the Iraqi people, the usual reply is: "Well, what counts is the official adherence to the sanctions."

The analysts concede that Washington realises that it is unrealistic to expect Jordan to play a role against the Iraqi government. They also say that Jordan was no longer expected, as the U.S. government was anticipating at one stage, to make official declarations calling for the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

They believe that the meeting between the King and Mr. Bush would lessen to a great extent the debate about Jordan's role towards Iraq, albeit not end it, and pave the way for a new approach based on the importance of Jordan to the peace process and regional stability.

Jordanian and American sources refused to divulge information about how the issues were raised by the two leaders regarding the peace process.

But Dr. Abu-Jabir said that Jordan insists that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 cannot be subjected to different interpretations. "Resolution 242 means a total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. There is no other interpretation for that. This is the international understanding of 242 and this is also the American understanding of the resolution," the foreign minister said. [passage omitted]

Congress is holding up $30 million in economic aid and $27 million in military assistance to Jordan. Even before the Gulf war, Congress tied any aid to Jordan to evidence the Kingdom is committed to peace with Israel.

King Husayn will visit France next week, French foreign ministry sources said.

They said the embargo on Iraq would be on the agenda of his talks with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on Monday. The Monarch was scheduled to arrive on Sunday.

France says sanctions are not meant to punish the Iraqi people, but to force Baghdad to abide by U.N. resolutions. [passage omitted]

U.S. Ship Barred From Anchoring at al-'Aqabah

JN1503093492 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 16 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Jordanian-American relations received a violent jolt a few days prior to King Husayn's visit to the United States.

The U.S. ambassador in Amman sent out invitations to a reception to be held in al-'Aqabah for the crew of a Red Sea inspection ship. So far, there is nothing strange in this item. It turned out, however, that the issue was not related to an inspection ship or to holding a reception. It was more than that. It was the issue of a cruiser with forces aboard. The cruiser had arrived in al-'Aqabah to inspect the cargo of all ships anchored at the port, and to find out whether the cargo was to be shipped to Iraq. The Jordanian Government prohibited this cruiser from anchoring at al-'Aqabah port, and denounced this behavior. The Jordanian Government also sharply blamed the U.S. ambassador, and addressed a protest memorandum to his government.

Washington contained the issue by extending a big apology. It also insisted that this incident should not affect the Jordanian monarch's visit. No comment.

'Israeli Agent' Said Involved in al-Musawi Death

NC1603113892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] According to Israeli radio, after Hizballah's investigation into the assassination of former Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi in an Israeli air raid, Hizballah sources said that an Israeli agent had placed an electronic device inside al-Musawi's car, enabling the aircraft to hit the target accurately.

The sources added that the investigation, ordered by current Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, suggests that local elements, perhaps from Hizballah's ranks and connected with Israel, helped kill al-Musawi. The radio cited Western sources in Beirut as saying that some Hizballah circles were frustrated by these elements not being arrested, and that this could expose the Hizballah leadership to the dangers of division.

Minister: 'Obstacles' Delay Release of Germans

NC1503180992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib said today that some obstacles have delayed the release of the two Germans held by kidnappers in Lebanon.

During a visit to Rashayya, in south Lebanon, Minister al-Khatib told correspondents that the Lebanese Government was on the verge of securing the release of the two German hostages, but some obstacles have delayed a settlement. The general trend, he added, is to close this file, and the solution is near.

Minister al-Khatib urged the EC to rescind the decision made earlier this month to postpone a $120 million aid program for Lebanon until the two Germans are released. He added that it is not fair to punish Lebanon for a wrong it did not commit.

Minister al-Khatib's statement came in the wake of a report which said that Iran has stopped its efforts to release the two German aid workers, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, who were kidnapped in south Lebanon in 1989.

An Islamic source reported last week that Tehran, a principal conduit in the hostages issue, said that Bonn must negotiate directly with the kidnappers. The source, who asked not to be identified, added that under U.S. pressure, Germany reneged on its promise to release the two imprisoned Lebanese brothers, Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abbas Hammadi. Bonn has repeatedly refused to conclude an agreement to release the two Lebanese. Muhammd 'Ali Hammadi was sentenced to life in prison on charges of hijacking a TWA plane and killing an American passenger in 1985. 'Abbas was sentenced to 13 years in prison on charges of kidnapping two German businessmen. In a press interview, their brother, 'Abd-al-Hadi Hammadi, urged Germany to promise to release his two brothers later. He said that the two German hostages would be released in return.

The fundamentalist source said that Giandomenico Picco, UN special envoy, has stopped his attempts to obtain the release of Arabs detained by Israel and its allies in return for the release of the Israeli and two German prisoners. The United Nations is also trying to determine the fate of a number of Israeli soldiers detained in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion of 1982.

Cabinet Adopts Bread, Fuel Price Reductions

NC1103202992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The cabinet held its regular weekly meeting today. It discussed economic developments in the country, and adopted the measures recommended by the ministerial Emergency Economic Committee to reduce bread and fuel prices. It decided to increase customs tariffs on luxury commodities such as alcoholic beverages and imported tobacco. It asked a committee of economic experts to formulate a self-help economic plan. [passage omitted]

Karami—Israel Trying To Destroy Lebanese Economy

NC1303092492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Speech by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at a banquet for the Mufti Office's Alms Fund in Beirut on 12 March—recorded]

[Text] There is no doubt that this country has traveled a rugged path of afflictions and sedition. This path would be horrendous for any nation, let alone a small one such as Lebanon, with a neighboring country that is usurping and aggressive, has designs on its land and wealth, and seeks to destroy and annihilate it.

Lebanon has faced and still faces an Israeli conspiracy against its existence and future. Since 1975, this conspiracy has taken many forms, assumed many guises, acquired many slogans, and found expression in various direct and indirect ways. Now we face another chapter of this conspiracy: The attempt to destroy Lebanon's economic abilities, starve its people, and pressure its government to submit to Israeli concepts that contradict the interests of Lebanon and its people and render its future uncertain.

We ask those who do not understand what is going on, or try to exploit the critical situation to serve their narrow interests, to see matters as they really are and rise to the occasion—a dangerous situation that calls for awareness, responsiblity, and true patriotism. The issue is not who is in the government and who is outside it. It is not about which government goes and which comes. The issue is much bigger than that, and we have to be aware of its grave repercussions.

We call on all Lebanese to assume their national responsibilities at this difficult time. We are faced with a vicious enemy, that sets traps for us and uses all types of pressure to make us submit to its will, abandon our principles, and compromise the interests and future of our country. This we will not do, God willing, as long as our vision is clear and our faith is unshaken, and as long as we stand firm on matters concerning our full and undiminished rights.

The government will continue to pursue the policies it has begun, and will continue to work on every aspect of its social and economic policy.

'Entire Country' in Jeopardy

NC1603111692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's meeting with the Economic Experts Committee ended a short while ago. After the meeting, Karami said that he informed the members that the entire country is in jeopardy and that efforts must be made to rescue it. The task entrusted to the Economic Experts Committee is a large one, he said, considering the difficult circumstances through which Lebanon is passing.

Karami stressed that he is depending on the committee's expertise to draw up a complete plan to overcome the economic crisis. He added: Some may ask—and they might be quite right in asking—what has the government done, and what plan does it have? It may be possible that the government is to blame for not informing the public about what we are doing. When we work, we do not seek propaganda; we do our duty and satisfy our conscience, he said.

The prime minister added: A plan exists. He referred to the study prepared by Bechtel, the study of the Development and Reconstruction Council, and the World Bank report. He said that the government has not wasted time. We must not forget that we have just emerged from a destructive war, that all our infrastructure has been destroyed, and that we have not yet received the assistance we were promised.

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Sevan Arrives; Meets Wakil, Others

LD1403200392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Excerpt] 'Abdol Wakil, minister of foreign affairs for the Republic of Afghanistan, met this morning in his office with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy for the UN secretary general. In the course of the meeting both sides spoke in detail about recent developments concerning the political resolution of the Afghanistan issue.

General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense for the Republic of Afghanistan, also met in his office this afternoon with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy for the UN secretary general. During this meeting both sides exchanged views on the secretary general's five-point plan on the political and peaceful resolution of the Afghanistan issue and recent developments in connection with the political solution of the Afghanistan issue.

According to another report, Internal Affairs Minister Raz Mohammad Paktin met in his office this afternoon with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy for the UN secretary general. In the course of this meeting both sides exchanged views about recent developments in connection with the political solution of the Afghanistan issue and about the positive UN efforts to end the war and to ensure a nationwide peace in the Republic of Afghanistan.

General Gholam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, met in his office today with His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy for the UN secretary general. During the meeting both sides exchanged views on new developments toward achieving a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan, further efforts toward cooperation to accelerate the process of understanding and talks among Afghans, and the positive efforts of the United Nations to establish peace in Afghanistan.

His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy for the UN secretary general, arrived in Kabul this morning for a working visit. [passage omitted]

UN-Sponsored Peace Process Viewed

LD1303070492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0730 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Political commentary by Radio Afghanistan Information Department]

[Text] Political and diplomatic efforts regarding the solution of the Afghanistan question is one of the (?steps) being taken toward the settlement of one of the remaining issues of the cold war period. These efforts, the foundation of which was laid five years ago with the commencement of the policy of national reconciliation, bore its first fruits after the conclusion of the Geneva Accords with the withdrawal of the military units of the ex-Soviet Union. The five-paragraph declaration of the UN secretary general and the joint declaration in Moscow in connection with stopping the supply of weapons to the warring sides and the proposal of a mechanism for an interim period gave them a fresh breath and consequently, with the recent efforts of the UN and in particular that of the UN secretary general's special envoy, have advanced higher and now the time has come to expect that the efforts of international circles regarding the cessation of the Afghan conflict have opened the windows of hope for passing to the conditions of peace and the creation of a mechanism acceptable to all forces in the conflict and other involved parties in the issue of Afghanistan.

The series of specific talks by Benon Sevan, special envoy of UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali, with various warring groups in Afghanistan resulted in the outcome that now the doors of peace are opened in the face of the Afghans more than ever before. All the people of Afghanistan, including the commanders of the moderate part of the opposition formations residing in Peshawar and those in Iran, have pledged their participation in the process of a political and peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan. The fundamentalists and those who have not been able so far to change their positions and join the UN planned program, not only will not be able to create obstacles in the process of the program of peace, but will be drowned in the whirlwind of events and their actions. This fact is crystal clear, more than any other time, that no force could retard the process of peace in Afghanistan.

After meeting with involved circles inside and outside the country, Benon Sevan was able to achieve the fact that all the Afghan people and all concerned states in the issues of Afghanistan support the peaceful solution of the question and affirm international efforts in this regard. Political observers have appraised the results of talks in Peshawar, Kabul, Tehran, and Islamabad as successful coupled with gains. After meeting with more than 100 groups, Benon Sevan proposed a first round of direct intra-Afghan negotiations with a composition of some 150 delegates from various groups to be held towards the end of April in Geneva [word indistinct]. A further and larger gathering for a second round of talks between the Afghans is envisaged two months later. Now, contrary to any other time, specific possibilities exist on national and international levels for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] of a peaceful future in Afghanistan. And in light of efforts by the United Nations and other peace-loving circles, the people of Afghanistan, with the help of Almighty God, would be able in the near future to engage their reconstruction under the conditions of peace and overcome the (?destructions) left behind from war.

Mojahedin-Armed Forces Clashes, Casualties Noted

15 Rebels Killed Near Qandahar

BK1203093392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Quetta—Kabul regime security forcess have repulsed an attack on government check posts near Qandahar city by Mojahedin groups, three days back. According to reports reaching here 15 Mojahedin were killed and 45 injured in the fighting. According to sources 20 trucks loads of weapons from this side of the border have reached Qandahar for another attack on the airport. The groups of Gul Agha, Nadir Popalzai and others were collaborating in the offensive on Qandahar front, these sources added.

Mojahedin Confirm Losses

BK1303105992 Karachi DAWN is English 13 Mar 92 p 5

[tEXT] Quetta, March 12—Heavy fighting was reported between Kabul troops and Afghan Mojahedin near a checkpost situated near Qandahar.

According to reports reaching Chaman from across the border, Kabul regime tros repulsed an attack of Afghan Mojahedin on a checkpost, near Qandahar on Monday. At least 15 Mojahedin were killed and more then 40 injured in the attack.

Local administration in Chaman, a border town on Pak-Afghan border confirming the heavy fighting near Qandahar said that the groups of Cul Afgha and Nadir Khan were fighting jointly in the area.

Afghan Mojahedin sources in Quetta also confirmed the attack and the loss suffered by the Mojahedin. These sources said that fighting continues, but the check post is still under the control of Kabul troops. Sources said that a big attack of Mojahedin is expected on Qandahar airport within the next few days.

Rebel 'Ringleaders' in Farah Captured

LD1203235792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] A group attached to the armed opposition formations that had been disturbing the peaceful life of the people of the region of Khos Bagh, Farah Province, by carrying out terrorist actions, was subjected yesterday to retaliatory attacks by the Armed Forces stationed in that province.

According to a report by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section, as a result of these blows Zapun and Golab, two of the ringleaders, were crushed. Mirajan and Jamali, two other ringleaders, were captured, along with three light machine guns, two pistols, a large quantity of ammunition, and two transport vehicles.

Mojahedin Take Kholm, 150 Prisoners

BK1403123092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] ISLAMABAD, March 14 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin said Saturday they had captured the district of Kholm near Afghanistan's border with the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan.

Kholm, located some 60 kilometers (38 miles) south of the Uzbek border in the Afghan province of Samangan, was "liberated" Friday, the resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said.

About 150 government soldiers and militiamen were taken prisoner in the battle and the mojahedin also captured a large quantity of weapons and ammunition including four tanks, MIDIA said.

Government planes bombarded mojahedin positions causing an unspecified number of casualties, the report said, adding that the "the Kabul regime's casualties were high."

The agency said the mojahedin had gained control of the entire district as a result of the "great victory" and closed the Kabul- Hayratan highway.

MIDIA also reported mojahedin operations this month in the Afghan provinces of Helmand and Jowzjan, claiming to have inflicted many casualties and seized weapons and ammunition from government forces.

Rival Headquarters Damaged

LD1603084192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Groups belonging to the Islamic Party of Golboddin recently attacked one headquarters and a weapons and ammunition cache of the Jamiat formation in the Dahna and Marzi areas of Farah Province. Heavy arms were used. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reporter says that as a result of this attack the cache was set on fire and all ammunition was destroyed. A number of guards were either killed or injured. The Jamiaat headquarters has also been badly damaged.

Week of Helmand Clashes Kills 66

LD1603090292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] As many as 66 people were killed in armed clashes last week between Hezb-e Islami of Golboddin and Harakat formation in [words indistinct] and in Gerishk and Khakrez districts, Helmand Province. According to a report by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section, both sides used heavy weapons and various types of rockets during the clashes, resulting in 23 people from the belligerent groups being injured. [Words indistinct] many houses were destroyed

and much damage was inflicted on the residents of the area as a result of the rockets and heavy weapons shells. [passage indistinct]

Mojahedin, Kabul Exchange Prisoners

BK1103124592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Mar 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—In an exchange of prisoners the Afghan government is reported to have freed six Mojahedin in return for the release of three of its men held in the Injeel district of Herat Province.

The prisoners swap took place on March 6, MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] reported quoting the Shaheed Afzali Front, an organisation affiliated to Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan.

The six Mojahedin released from Kabul's Pul-i-Charkhi prison included four commanders, Mohammad Aman, Abdul Aziz, Mohammad Yunis and Naser Basharzad. Other two were, Nisar Ahmad and Mohammad Mian. Five of the freed men belonged to the Shahed Afzali Front, based in Herat, while the sixth (Naser Basharzad) was affiliated to the Shiite party, Hizbullah. The names of the Kabul regime personnel freed by the Mojahedin were not provided.

Electric Power Agreement Signed With Uzbekistan

LD1603085492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] A protocol to purchase 100 million kilowatts of power from the Republic of Uzbekistan during 1992 was signed on 12 March in Mazar-e Sharif between the Ministry of Water and Power of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Power Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The protocol was signed and its documents exchanged for Afghanistan by Engineer Mohammd Zaher, deputy power minister of the Ministy of Water and Power, and for Uzbekistan by Ahmadov, deputy minister of the Ministry of Power Energy of Uzbekistann. Engineer Mir Abdul Ghafur Rahim, minister of water and power, and Governor of Balkh Abdul Bashir Paywaston were present.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that based on this protocol 100 million kilowatts of power with a total cost of 29.4 million clearing dollars and 100,000 floating dollars [azad dollars] equivalent to 3.5 billion afghanis will be purchased from the Republic of Uzbekistan during 1992 and will put at the disposal of main consumers including firms, state and private factories, the north's gas and oil establishments, border services, as well as the people of the Balkh and Jawzjan Provinces.

Bangladesh

Zia Leaves for London En Route to Washington

BK1603022292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Engl h 0130 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia left Dhaka last night for London on way to Washington on invitation of President George Bush. Among others, Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz saw her off at the airport. Begum Khaleda will have a (?stopover in London). Her U.S. visit will begin from tomorrow. [passage indistinct].

Accord Signed With Pakistan on Sugar Mill

BK1403162192 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Pakistan have made an agreement for setting up a new sugar mill in the northern part of the country. The agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation and the Heavy Mechanical Complex of Pakistan in Dhaka today. It will be the second sugar mill with the production capacity 16,600 tons of sugar during a seasons to be installed with Pakistani assistance. The 68.77 crore taka project, including foreign exchange component of 42.77 crore taka was approved by the cabinet (?resources) committee last month and is expected to be completed by November 1994. With the completion of the project, country's sugar production and processing will be enhanced from existing 199,450 tons to 215,850 tons during a season.

125,000 Tons of Canadian Wheat Procured

BK1103162292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Bangladesh is to get from Canada 125,000 tons of wheat. This was revealed at a press briefing by the finance minister, M. Saifur Rahman, in Dhaka today. A ship carrying the Canadian wheat will be reaching Chittagong port on the 18th of this month. Bangladesh is also trying to procure another 150,000 tons of wheat from international market. The finance minister denied reports in a section of the press that the country's economy is not in a good shape. Mr. Saifur Rahman said Bangladesh is now overcoming all problems and slowly becoming self-reliant.

Trade Protocol Signed With Bhutan

BK1103160892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Bhutan have signed an agreed minute on expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The agreed minute was signed after the end of talks between the two sides in Dhaka today. Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar and the Bhutanese minister for trade and industry Lyompo Om Pradan signed the

agreed minute. After the signing, they reaffirmed the desire of the two governments to strengthen bilateral trade relations. Under the agreed minute, the two sides will explore the possibilities of setting up a cement factory in Bangladesh using silica from Bhutan. Bhutan will also supply boulders for road and bridge construction in Bangladesh. A delegation from Dhaka will visit Thimpu for exploring prospects for Bangladeshi goods in Bhutan. The Bhutanese side showed interest in the import of items like LPG [liquified petroleum] gas, dry fish, jute bags, and soybean oil. The Bhutanese delegation left for home today after a five-day visit to Bangladesh.

Dhaka Denies Claim on Refugees' Immigrant Status

BK1203161992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Dhaka, March 12 (AFP)—Dhaka has dismissed claims by Rangoon that the Burmese Moslems fleeing their homes in Burma and taking refuge in Bangladesh since last year are "illegal immigrants."

Terming such reports as "simply devoid of truth," a foreign office statement, carried Thursday by BSS NEWS AGENCY, also "discounted" Rangoon's claim that "historically there has never been any Rohingya race."

Some 140,00 Burmese Moslems, known as Rohingyas, are estimated to have crossed into Bangladesh after fleeing their homes in Burma's western Arakan province alleging widespread atrocities by Rangoon troops on the ethnic community.

The influx is continuing with about 5,000 refugees arriving daily, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has launched a major relief operation.

The statement gave detailed background of the Rohingya refugee problem, saying the Bangladesh Government was constrained to put the whole scenario in perspective and place the historical facts before the international community.

It referred to a similar situation in 1978 when more than 300,000 Rohingya Moslems were forced to leave their homes in Burma and take shelter in Bangladesh.

"Seventy percent of the these people had the first category Myanmar (Burmese) citizenship and more than 200,000 of them were ultimately taken back" by Rangoon Government at the time, the statement said.

Earlier reports said Rangou which considers the Rohingyas as aliens and insurgents, has denied allegations that its troops were committing atrocities on the Moslem community in Arakan. But it said its troops were carrying out an anti-insurgency drive in the border state and that their actions were not directed against any particular community.

A group of foreign diplomats who flew to Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district Wednesday to assess the Burmese Moslem refugee influx assured Dhaka of their support in finding a solution to the problem.

BSS quoted the Sri Lankan High Commissioner as saying during a visit to the camps that the diplomats' presence reflected the "willingness of our respective governments to work closely with Bangladesh" to solve the Burmese refugee problem.

Reaction in Burma to Muslim Refugee Issue Noted

BK1403161092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The continued persecution of Rohingya Muslims by the Myanmar [Burma] government has evoked reactions from Myanmar itself with important personalities calling for handling the problem politically. The persecution of the Muslims is being talked about in different circles in Myanmar and many feel that the designs to drive out the Muslims on different pretexts lack legitimacy and could be counterproductive. The chairman of the United National Democratic Party, Brigadier General, retired, (Ong Gyi), in his party monthly journal NEWSLETTER of February issue, analyzed the problem in detail and said the historical background shows that Muslims in Arakan [word indistinct] are living there for long time. Brigadier General (Ong Gyi) was deputy chief of army staff when General Ne Win took power and later became the chief of army staff. It may be mentioned that Myanmar Government, of late, has been seeking to establish that there never existed a tribe called Rohingya. The writeup of Brigadier (Ong Gyi) with his historical background of the issue negates what the Myanmar authorities are attempting to establish.

Burmese Guerilla Chief Asks for Military Aid

BK1303102892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh, March 13 (AFP)—The head of a Moslem Burmese guerrilla group appealed Friday for international military aid to fight Rangoon's military junta.

"We are determined to fight to free our homeland from the tyranny of the Burmese military junta and we want military support from the international community as well as our neighbours to help us return home," Nurul Islam, chief of the Rohingya Islamic Guerilla Front (RIGF), told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE].

He said there was no alternative to a massive military offensive if the military junta failed to settle the refugee roblem "peacefully and politically."

Officials said some 140,000 refugees, known as Rohingyas, had fled to Bangladesh's southeastern district of Cox's Bazar from Burma's western state of Arakan.

Hundreds more continue to pour in daily alleging widespread atrocities by Burmese troops, including rapes, murders and torture.

Islam, who is also the chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front (ARIF), said his people would like to fight and die rather than lead a "miserable life" in refugee camps in Bangladesh.

"We do not want to be a burden on Bangladesh," he added.

The RIGF has more than 1,000 troops armed with automatic weapons camped near Burma's Gumdom area, close to the Bangladesh frontier, he said.

Islam said his guerrillas, trained by "foreign instructors," have fought a number of battles with the Burmese troops, causing casualties on both sides.

He refused to disclose the identity of the foreign instructors and also casualty figure or details about the fighting.

Meanwhile, officials in capital Dhaka said Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was visiting the camps Friday for the first time since the crisis, ahead of her coming visit to the United States.

Foreign Ministry officials here said that the refugee issue will figure prominently during talks between Zia and American President George Bush March 19.

India

Delhi Not To Yield to U.S. 'Pressure' on NPT

BK1403090092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has said that India will not succumb to any pressure from the United States to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi on his return from the United States, he said there is no question of India signing the NPT. He also ruled out New Delhi's participation in a five-nation summit to resolve the nuclear issue in South Asia. He said the suggestion that India and the United States hold further discussion on the NPT issue came from the United States. Mr. Dixit said the venue date or the level of bilateral talks is yet to be decided.

Solanki Assures 'Agitated' Lok Sabha

BK1303092092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The government today categorically stated in the Lok Sabha that it will never allow the sovereignty and integrity of the country to be compromised. The foreign minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, told the agitated members that the security of the nation is uppermost in the government's mind. He said the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, has had detailed discussions with various authorities in America. He said the government will make a statement in the house on Monday after ascertaining details of the discussions from him.

Members from both sides earlier expressed their serious concern over the reported remarks of the foreign secretary to the press in the United States that India will hold bilateral talks with Washington on the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] issue. They also expressed concern over the move to have joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean by the two countries and the reported threat by America to take action against India under Super 301 provisions.

U.S. Postponement of Trade Sanctions Viewed

BK1303021692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Feb 92 p 8

[Editorial: "US Crowbar in Position"]

[Text] The US decision to postpone discriminatory action against Indian exports under Super 301, announced on February 26 by that country's trade representative, Ms Carla Hills, is hardly reason for "gratification", as India's Ambassador to the US, Mr Abid Hussain, would have us believe. The postponement means, as explained by a senior American trade official, that the US is "not saying when those policy options will be implemented', one of which is to place import duties to bar Indian exports that enter America under the generalised system of preferences. The message is, the senior US official explained, "they (India) should not breathe a sigh of relief'. The crowbar thus remains ominously in position. The postponement of hostile action under Super 301, which has come in the wake of India agreeing to introduce legislation "to provide rental rights for video cassettes" and "to allow foreign trade marks" and to remove import quotas on motion pictures and improve the distribution process for foreign movies, is meant to force India to yield new ground "in bilateral negotiations and in the Uruguay round", as explained by none other than the redoubtable Ms Hills. Having given an inch, a mile has to be surrendered. Lest there be any doubts in this regard, it has been explained that the US "will not necessarily wait for an accord on intellectual property in the Uruguay round before proceeding with bilateral action". To express "gratification" at this US policy is tantamount to saying that the Government is only too willing to fall in line, though for domestic political reasons it wants to be seen to be giving in to relentless US pressure. If this is indeed the case, the Government has abandoned its negotiating stance on intellectual property rights with the US.

The objective of US pressure on India, whether through the trade route or possibly through the sorely needed foreign capital route, is to keep this country quiescent in the Uruguay round negotiations. The take-it-or-leave-it Dunkel draft on the on-going talks seeks to give effect to cross retaliation between goods services and intellectual property. It thus proposes to enshrine US law Super 301

in a multilateral agreement through the establishment of the Multilateral Trade Organisation. Every concession to US under bilateral pressure thus forecloses this country's right to seek modifications to the Dunkel draft, the adoption of which will slow down the transfer of technology to the developing countries. Any attempt to modify the Dunkel draft will attract the US crowbar. India and other countries which need advanced technologies will find themselves debarred from developing alternative process technologies on their own under the scheme to protect monopoly profits of multinationals. It will be open to any multinationals to charge that a certain patent has been violated to haul industry in the Third World over the coals. Regrettably, the Government has not put the issues involved squarely before Parliament.

Punjab on Alert After Attack on U.S.-Based Firm

BK1603092692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] The Center has alerted Punjab and the neighboring states to take all precuationary measures to prevent vengeful counterattacks by terrorists. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, informed the Rajya Sabha today that 12 paramilitary companies have been rushed to Sangrur District from nearby areas where the militants killed 15 engineers and experts last Tuesday [10 March] near the premises of the India Acrylic Fiber Plant. Making a statement on the incident, he said the management of the company had refused security cover, despite the police offer to set up a picket at the premises. Arms were also supplied to the company, but the management suggested to the government to withdraw them. Mr. Chavan said the firm had refused security because its U.S.-based collaborating company had opposed the stationing of armed security men on the premises. It engaged 20 unarmed security personnel who could not render any assistance.

The home minister minister also informed the house that an army unit has been stationed near the plant for extending cover in the neighborhood. Mr. Chavan said those killed in the terrorist attack were non-Punjabis coming from seven different states.

Editorial Urges Revision of Foreign Policy

BK1203134292 Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Mar 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Future Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Considering what India's foreign policy of the future should be, the following must be borne in mind—the end of the cold war; the collapse of the USSR; the US as the only military power with global reach but lacking the wherewithal to sustain that status; Japan and Germany as economic superpowers; West Europe's economic unification; and the increasing globalisation of natioal economies. Additionally, the gulf between the industrially advanced and developing countries is widening, not merely in wealth but even more so in the access to new technology. All these have plunged the post-second world war world into a flux. If in this new unfamiliar world, India as a nation is to safeguard and promote its interests, the country has to maintain a constant watch on the direction the world is taking and the emerging trends. We have to seek alternatives for the doors that are being closed to us, and explore the new possibilities that are being opened. This entails taking a long view of what is happening, anticipating events and initiating processes to shape these events in our national interests. If ever there was a need for creating a mechanism entrusted exclusively with the responsibility of taking a long view of how to promote our national interests in our dealings with the outside world, it is now. In the past also this need was felt, but then we had to deal with a world which had become familiar. We had been dealing with it since independence and we had before us the guidelines drawn up under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru on the basis of the experience of the nation during its freedom struggle. Now we are on the threshold of a different world. There are no readymade guidelines as to how we should interact with the emerging circumstances. The requirement of a long-term view, anticipating and thus shaping events is urgent because the US has begun forging a new world order composed of diverse regional security arrangements, all under the self-proclaimed leadership of America and based on, as President George Bush has said, not only US interests but also the US system of values and norms. To be more specific, we are not only under US pressure to join the nuclear non-proliferation regime and missile control regime, we are also being asked to initiate negotiations with Pakistan for a final settlement of Kashmir. There are also attempts by Americans, believed to be friendly to India, to introduce into India-Pakistan bilateral talks a third party, described as the people of Kashmir. Reactions of the people of Kashmir are a purely domestic affair Kashmir has always been an integral and inalienable part of the country known as India. But under the new order that is being forged, an attempt seems to be on to blur the distinction between the domestic and the international and to get India to dilute its stand on the finality of Kashmir's accession. These pressures are being intensified whie our national economy is being "globalised". It has become necessary for us to redefine self-reliance in the changed context. It has also become necessary to rethink our national interests—for which again new thinking is needed.

Gap in 'High-Tech' Military Weaponry Perceived

BK1303031292 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Mar 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Defence Modernisation"]

[Text] Given the financial constraints, the task of modernising the armed forces will be even more daunting than it has been in the last three years. In this period, the defence budget has, in real terms, declined. The budget

for 1992-93, too, reflects the same trend. It has been increased from Rs. [Rupees] 16,350 crore in the outgoing year by seven per cent to Rs.17,500 crore. But this is only a nominal rise in view of the inflation of the order of about 12 per cent. How then can the requirements of all the three services for the latest equipment be adequately met?

Last year's Gulf War stressed the importance of high-tech weapons as force multipliers. It also brought home to the Indian defence establishment the gap between what India has in terms of such equipment and what it should if its defence forces are to effectively discharge their responsibility of safeguarding national security from external threats. Perceptions of the precise nature and magnitude of such threats might differ among the experts as well as security policymakers. But such differences should not be allowed to de-emphasise the basic importance of modernising the defence forces with the minimum possible delay. This is not an issue merely of buying up the latest weapons systems in as sufficient a quantity as is practicable. The introduction of such weaponry will call for significant changes in the structure and organisation of each of the three services. There will thus be an inevitable time-lag between the procurement of high-tech weapons and their effective deployment. This consideration cannot be lost sight of in the continuing debate among the defence and foreign policy experts over the implications for India's security of the collapse of the Soviet Union as a superpower. Even if Pakistani and Chinese policies towards India were reassuring enough, defence modernisation could not have been relegated to the background. Since this is by no means the case, it is doubly important that this matter is given the highest priority.

The defence budget was last increased significantly in 1987-88. The outlay was then hiked up from Rs.8,728 crore in the previous year to Rs.12,512 core (even then it was only 4.07 per cent of the gross domestic product compared to the far higher ratio of about seven per cent in Pakistan and ten per cent in China). The reason for the sharp increase, it may be recalled, was the Pakistani acquisition of substantial quantities of state of the art weapons from the United States as well as China. The process of modernisation of the Indian defence forces which was then initiated must be kept up. The basic aim of giving a greater punch to the defence forces is sought to be achieved through the implementation of the Arun Singh Committee's recommendations. The difficulty, however, of minimising the likely adverse affect of the paucity of funds on the pace of modernisation remains. This indeed is where the Government's perspicacity and firmness of purpose will be put to a severe test.

Opposition Calls for Army Chief's Ouster

BK1303161792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi, March 13 (AFP)—Opposition MPs Friday demanded the dismissal of India's Army chief over an interview in which he discounted a threat from Pakistan as "peripheral" and likened three other countries to huge rats.

Angry members told parliament General S.F. Rodgrigues, who assumed office in July 1990, should be sacked for calling the United States, Russia and China "bandicoots"—an Indian breed of rat—in an interview to THE PIONEER newspaper published Thursday.

External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki said Defence Minister Sharad Pawar would make a statement Monday, after opposition MPs cutting across party lines kept raising the issue in the lower house.

Rodrigues, now visiting Nepal, told THE PIONEER he considered threats from Pakistan to be "peripheral" and Islamabad to be an "irritant, but ... an irritant I could do without."

The Army chief added he thought the United States could be trying to pressurise India into signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He also dismissed proposals for summit of five countries—India, Pakistan, the United States, Russia and China—on a nuclear-free South Asia .

"When you have a regional grouping (of India and Pakistan), what is the role of these three bandicoots (United States, Russia and China)," he said.

"You have two protagonists and three supervisors. Are they supervisors, are they guarantors or are they part of this whole arrangement. What is this?" the chief of the million-plus Army asked.

Centrist MP George Fernandes said Rodrigues had "exceeded his limits" in expressing his views on matters having a bearing on India's relations with neighbouring countries.

Ram Vilas Paswan, a vocal MP, called the general's interview "uncalled for," while one rightist and one communist politician said he should not have expressed his views on matters which did not fall within his domain.

The Indian Army, the world's fourth largest, is strictly apolitical, and its generals traditionally steer clear of controversies.

Pakistan Accused of Violating Simla Accord

BK1403145692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The president has deplored the violation of the Simla agreement by Pakistan and its support to terrorism in Kashmir. Mr. Venkataraman said this can create needless tension which will be in no one's interest. He was delivering the Indira Gandhi memorial lecture on foreign policy under Indira Gandhi organized by the Association of Indian Diplomats in New Delhi today. Mr. Venkataraman regretted that the former Pakistan

prime minister, Mr. Z.A. Bhutto, failed to live up to the Simla agreement and his successors have again taken recourse to the abandonment of the spirit of the agreement.

Referring to the present world sitution, he said there is an urgent need for democratic interaction in the economic field on a global scale.

Official Kidnapped in Kashmir Released

BK1503155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] In Kashmir valley, the kidnapped director of the forensic laboratory, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Bhatt, today returned to his home. He had been kidnapped by militants on the 18th of last month.

TDP Expels Seven MP's for 'Antiparty' Activity

BK1403160392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The Telugu Desam Party [TDP] executive has expelled Mr. P. Upendra and six other MP's from the party for antiparty activities. This was announced by the TDP president, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, in Hyderabad today. The other expelled members are Mr. B. Vijaykumar Raju, Mr. Indrakaran Reddy, Mr. G. Ganga Reddy, Mr. K.V.R. Chaudhary, Mr. Tota Subbarao, and Mr. K.P. Reddiar. Except Mr. Upendra, who is the Rajya Sabha member, the other expelled members belong to the Lok Sabha. Mr. Rama Rao said Mr. M. Padmanabham will be the leader of the Telugu Desam parliamentary party, while Mr. Khaleelur Rahman will be its secretary. He alleged that two union ministers were instrumental in the abstention of TDP members on the motion of thanks on the president's address in the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Upendra has described the decision of his expulsion from the party as unfortunate. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said that no clarification was sought from him before the expulsion.

Army Called Out in Assam After Group Clashes

BK1503109592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] In Assam, Army has been called out in the curfew-bound Bhujai town in Nowgong district to assist the civil authorities in maintaining law and order. Indefinite curfew was clamped in the town yesterday evening following group clashes. One person was killed and 15 others were injured in the incident. Thirty-five people have been taken into custody.

Punjab Militants Kill 18, Wound 6 in Ludhiana

BK1503095692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] In Punjab, militants again struck in a big way yesterday evening, killing 18 people and injuring six others in two adjoining localities of Ludhiana. According to an official spokesman, four scooter-borne militants went to Vishwakarma colony and opened indiscriminate fire, killing 10 persons and injuring two others. The same gang then went to another locality, Bhagwan Nagar, where they shot dead eight and injured four others. The security forces have since been alerted all over the state, and massive search operations to apprehend the culprits have been launched.

Meanwhile, one militant was killed in an encounter with the police in Nakodar town of Jullundur District and another committed suicide when surrounded by police in Morinda area of Rupar District yesterday. Elsewhere in the state militants shot dead two persons in Sangrur District and one in Jullundur Sadar area.

Meanwhile, the chief minister met the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi and discussed law and order situation in the state, including deployment of paramilitary forces in sensitive areas.

Tamil Nadu Request To Ban LTTE Under Study

BK1403090292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The center is actively considering Tamil Nadu's request to ban the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This was disclosed by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, in Madras today. He told newsmen that the center is keenly watching the militant activities in the state. This followed reports about unearthing of powerful wireless sets from various parts of the state.

Iranian Embassy Condemns 'Blasphemous' Book

LD1303143492 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] New Delhi, March 13, IRNA—Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran today issued a press release condemned the blasphemous book titled "Some Blunders in Indian Historical Research", describing it as part of a conspiracy against Islam.

The press release states that "the book has not only insulted the sacred beliefs of Indian Muslims but also Muslims of the whole world."

The hallucination of a crude Hindu polytheist mind, the disgusting book authored by a certain P.N. Oak, has tried to insult the monotheist message of Islam and the Almighty's Last Prophet to Mankind (PBUH), making some baseless insinuations.

Elaborating on motives of such propaganda, the Iranian embassy states that "the new conspiracies, which the world arrogance has launched against Muslims, are no unresolved mysteries for Muslims and it is manifestly clear that this and other evil propaganda against Islam are a part of a chain of calculated conspiracies."

Supporting the expectation of Muslims from the Indian government to deal firmly with those who want to sow seeds of discord among the Muslims and non-Muslims of India and the region, the press release declares that "the people of Iran along with Muslims of the world, will not remain silent in the face of such conspiracies and would neutralise them by their reactions."

Several Indian Muslim leaders including members of parliament had earlier demanded a ban on the above mentioned blasphemous book.

Talking to IRNA, Friday, Mohammad Afzal, Janata Dal leader who had first raised the issue on the floor of the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), described it as an attempt at "sensationalism", provocation of Muslims, and "pitting Hindu sentiments against Muslims".

Noting that the author of the book has a history of making "nasty statements against Muslims", he said that it was part of attempts made by certain quarters to divert attention from the real problems of the community by involving them in emotive issues.

The Janata Dal leader affirmed that Chapter 18 of the book which contends that the Holy Ka'ba—built by Prophet Abraham (PBUH)—a Hindu temple, has insulted the sacred beliefs not only of Indian Muslims but also of Muslims the world over.

He said other contentions by Oak, including the one which claims that the Prophet (PBUH) was born a Hindu and that his (the prophet's) uncle "laid down his life fighting to save Hinduism" are in bad taste and are bound to intimidate Muslims.

India's more than 180 million Muslims make up over 20 per cent of the country's population. The Hindus, divided into a myriad of castes and cults are mostly polytheist, worshipping a pantheon of idols ranging from animals to weird-looking imaginary demons.

Afzal regretted that such a book had found its way into the "hallowed portals of the country's highest democratic body, the parliament."

He said that when he demanded a ban on the book some members of the anarchist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not support the view on the grounds that "all interpretations of history, no matter how ridiculous, should be allowed."

Earlier, Syed Shahabuddin, member of parliament, saying the book was not a scholarly work and that it was offensive to the sentiments of the Muslims, demanded that it be proscribed.

Meanwhile, Maulana Asad Madani, another member of parliament, and president of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, has also demanded a ban on the book by Oak, for the blasphemous passages it contained.

In a statement issued to the press, Friday, he said it was part of a pre-destined conspiracy to hurt the feelings of Muslims by misrepresenting history.

It may be recalled that a massive uproar was caused in the Indian parliament, Thursday, when Muslim parliamentarians reacted strongly to the presence of such an "outrageous" book in the institution's library and demanded that it not only be withdrawn from there but also banned in the country.

The warped mind of Oak had earlier made far fetched claims against some of India's world famous monuments, the legacy of over 700 years of enlightened Muslim rule.

For example the brainsick author had claimed that the 17th century marble mausoleum, Taj Mahal, was a built by a Hindu king, the famous Qutb Minar in Delhi was not built by the Muslim ruler, Qutbuddin Aibak (1236-40), but by a Hindu king Vikramaditya, and the tombs of medieval Sufis like Nizamuddin Aulia and Bakhtiar Kaaki in Delhi, Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer and Salim Chishti in Fatehpur Sikri near Agra, are actually Hindu structures.

Iran

Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Held in Tehran

ICO Representative Meets Official

NC1303082692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The deputy secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], representing the ICO secretary general, has come to the region to gain some familiarity on the differences between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. He arrived in Tehran yesterday and met Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs.

During their meeting, the ICO official discussed the region's efforts to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran's close proximity and longstanding relations with the two sides involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is conducive to Iran's success in this endeavor.

In view of Iran's position, he added, it is important for us to become familiar with the Islamic Republic of Iran's views on the issue. This is why we are starting our visit to the region in Tehran. Allegations and opinions by Western countries have unfortunately complicated the issue.

The deputy foreign minister discussed the details of the situation and the warring sides's views. In addition, Va'ezi thanked the ICO for not remaining indifferent to these events.

Russian Envoy Confers With Official

LD1303172292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Vladimir Gudev, the Russian ambassador in Tehran, has met with Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs. The two parties reviewed the latest developments concerning the Karabakh region.

During the meeting, Mr. Va'ezi referred to the increasing conflict between the Azerbaijani and Armenian forces and called on the Russian Government to use its maximum influence in order to reduce the existing tension and stop the killing of innocent people.

The deputy foreign minister also spoke about the recent talks held between an Azerbaijani delegation and our country's officials. He said: The president of Armenia will dispatch a high-ranking delegation to Tehran in the near future to hold talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Azerbaijanis Present Views

LD1303173192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The high-ranking Azerbaijani political delegation, consisting of the deputy foreign minister and two presidential advisers, currently in Tehran to assess ways in which Iran can assist and mediate in order to find a solution to the current hostilities in the Karabakh region, held a second round of talks with our deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs yesterday afternoon.

During the talks, the delegation presented the views of the Azerbaijani Government, and appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to strive for a solution to the current conflict.

Our deputy foreign minister detailed the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposals for an end to the hostilities, and called on the two sides to show restraint in these sensitive conditions.

Velayati Proposes Plan

LD1303212292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to a Central News Unit report, following talks on Thursday with a delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan, Foreign Minister Velayati proposed a four-point plan for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. The plan stipulates a permanent cease-fire in the region, the deployment of an observer force, and an exchange of POW's and bodies from both sides.

Armenian Official Arrives

LD1303194792 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister's proposal concerning the establishment of peace in the Karabakh region is acceptable to the Armenian Government. Vahan Papazian, political adviser to the Armenian president, announced this on his arrival in Tehran this evening. He added: Armenia has no territorial ambitions with regard to Azerbaijan and believes that the vote of the people of Karabakh must be respected.

Welcoming him, Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American affairs, announced that Armenia and Azerbaijan have both welcomed Iran's mediation in the Karabakh issue. He expressed the hope that a suitable framework for the establishment of a ceasefire in the region will be worked out in order to bring the views of the two sides closer.

Trilateral Talks To Commence

LD1403120492 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—Trilateral talks on ways of settling the Karabakh issue will open here Saturday afternoon with participation of Iran, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced here Saturday.

Velayati made the remark this morning following his recent talks here with a special delegation of Azerbaijan Government and special envoys of the Armenian president.

The Armenian delegation which arrived here Friday evening headed by Vahan Papazian, political advisor to Armenian president, conferred with deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi Saturday morning.

During the meeting, Papazian hailed Iran's efforts to settle the Karabakh dispute and said Iran's proposal will be a "positive, constructive and acceptable" one.

Meanwhile, Va'ezi underlined declaration of ceasefire as the first step for solving the problem to be followed by exchange of those captured.

The Armenian official said his country accepts Iran's proposed plan and agrees that the first steps must be establishment of ceasefire and exchange of captives.

He said that his country had emphatically stressed that Armenia had no territorial claim over Azerbaijan.

The Armenian delegation later met with Velayati and exchanged views on current situation in the region.

'Good Will' Seen on Both Sides

LD1403172692 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The first round of face-to-face talks between delegates from warring Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia was held here at the presence of Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Velayati expressed satisfaction at the trend of the negotiations and said both sides had shown good-will. "We have taken positive steps and the understanding of all of us from this friendly meeting is that peace will be restored in Karabakh," said Velayati.

"We will witness a ceasefire in the region in a near future," Velayati voiced the optimism, adding that "the ground for a just end to the dispute is being prepared."

The Armenian delegation is led by Vahan Papazian, the political advisor to the president, and the Azerbaijan delegation is headed by Vafa Kulizade, political advisor to the government. The Armenian delegation arrived here today. The Azerbaijani delegation arrived here earlier this week.

On the future trend of the talks, Velayati said a committee comprising representatives from Azerbaijan and Armenia as well as his deputy for Europe and America Mahmud Va'ezi will be held soon to discuss a ceasefire, exchange of POWs and dead bodies and ways to lift the economic sanctions on the cities and towns now under siege.

Papazian also expressed satisfaction at the peace talks and hoped that the climate of understanding prevailing at the meeting would bear its results in the disputed Karabakh region. Kulizade also appreciated Velayati's mediation efforts and said the issues raised at the trilateral talks had inspired some hope for peace.

Second Round of Talks Held

LD1503105392 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—A joint communique is expected to be issued shortly at the end of the current trilateral talks, opened here Saturday with participation of Iranian, Azerbaijani and Armenian officials to find ways to settle the Karabakh issue, informed sources said Sunday. The same sources expressed hope that with the establishment of a ceasefire in the troubled area by the end of the current week a major breakthrough will be made in the settlement of the dispute.

The visiting delegates from Armenia and Azerbaijan held their second round of talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi Sunday morning. At the end of the session, heads of the delegations lauded Iran's initiative in finding ways to put an end to the present dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over Karabakh and hoped that such efforts would bear fruits in future.

Meanwhile, an expert delegation of the three countries was commissioned to prepare the final communique which is said to include establishment of a temporary ceasefire, exchange of the captives, and bodies of those killed in the clashes.

Observer Force Backed

LD1403142892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1057 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Considering the popularity of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the people and leaders of both Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the positive spiritual influence of our country in that region, both countries have underlined the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation and assistance in finding a just, peaceful solution to the Karabakh conflict. Despite this, since the Karabakh conflict has various aspects, and since its continuation may have far-reaching consequences, the participation of other countries of the region, especially the Russian Republic, will be a determining factor in solving this conflict.

Recent mediation efforts in the Karabakh conflict have not achieved tangible and quick results because internal and external factors, outside the control of Armenia and Azerbaijan, are influential in this conflict. The interference of foreign powers with the aim of fanning the flames of the fire, alongside the existence of autonomous armed groups who turn a blind eye to official agreements, are in reality among the most important reasons behind the failure of Azerbaijan and Armenia to establish a ceasefire and lasting peace.

To that end, the stationing of observer forces with the participation of neutral, well-intentioned countries in the disputed region will be of considerable help to the establishment of calm and the return of stability to the region. Furthermore, this move will pave the way for an assessment of the two sides' demands for a just, peaceful, and lasting solution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has hitherto continued its efforts to establish peace and stability in the region, supports the stationing of such peacekeeping forces. It is hoped that greater steps will be taken with the agreement of the two Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Armenian Welcomes Iranian Observers

LD1503142792 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Visiting Armenian presidential advisor Vahan Papazian said here Sunday

that his country welcomes the deployment of an Iranian observor force in Karabakh to establish ceasefire. Papazian also expressed hope that Iran's mediation efforts, aimed at ending hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, would produce positive results. The Armenian official was speaking at the end of the second round of tripartite talks here, also attended by Azerbaijan and Iran.

The Armenian official also expressed satisfaction with the trend of the Tehran talks and said he thought the Azerbaijani party to the negotiations would be satisfied as well. However, he said, establishment of a lasting peace in the region would be possible only through the participation of the representatives of Karabakh in the negotiations. "In our opinion, respect for the wishes of the people of that region and its recongnition as an independent state is the most ideal way of ending the clashes but this is not realistic," Papazian said. If the Azerbaijani Government provides the conditions demanded by the Karabakh people and allows Armenia to guarantee them, the current problem would be solved and both Armenia and Karabakh would accept such a solution, he said.

Blaming current disputes in Karabakh on the policies of the former Soviet Union, Papazian said "Before Azerbaijan and Armenia became independent, there were other powers besides the former Soviet Union adding fuel to differences and clashes in the region to secure their own interests." The Armenian presidential advisor pointed out that following the independence of Azerbaijan and Armenia the ground was prepared for both to end their dispute over Karabakh.

With regards to the extent of the clashes and worsening of the problems in Karabakh, the issue needed a long time to be resolved and for this reason mediation by a third party especially Iran would be helpful, Papazian said. He reiterated that Armenia fully trusted Iran's efforts to end Armenia-Azerbaijan belligerence and quoted the Armenian president as emphasizing the importance of such efforts by the Islamic Republic.

'Draft Agreement' Proposed

LD1503165892 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—The tripartite meeting of Iran, Azerbaijan and Armenia concluded its two day work here Sunday by drawing up a draft agreement aimed at ending hostility between the two newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told reporters at the end of the meeting that the text of the draft agreement would be published after approval by the heads of state of the two countries.

The draft agreement proposes the establishment of a ceasefire between the two belligerent states, exchange of POWs and corpses of those killed in action and efforts to remove economic sanctions of Armenia and other regions, Velayati said. "If these three proposals are implemented simultaneously, a very good opportunity would be brought about for a lasting ceasefire and honorable peace," he said.

The foreign minister expressed hope that the ceasefire envisaged in the draft agreement would be confirmed by the heads of state of the two countries.

As the 3rd stage of its mediation efforts, Velayati said, Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi is to travel to Karabakh. "We realized during our talks with officials of the two countries that both sides want peace. We hope to have a lasting peace with cooperation of regional countries especially Iran and Russia," the foreign minister pointed out.

The date and duration of ceasefire have been proposed in the draft agreement whose finalization depends on a decision of the Armenian and Azerbaijani heads of state, he said. However, Velayati expressed hope that the ceasefire would be established within less than a week.

Vafa Kulizade, who represented Azerbaijan in the Tehran talks, said that the confirmation of the draft agreement by the Azerbaijani head of state depended on time and future circumstances. He also lauded Iran for its mediation efforts and for preparing the ground for signing of a constructive paper between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenian representative at the negotiations Vahan Papazian, who is an advisor to the president, said his government wanted peace to be established in the region. Papazian, terming the draft agreement as moving towards peace, felt confident that it would be approved by the Armenian Government thus opening the door to a constructive life.

The Russian ambassador was present at the final session as an observer.

Clandestine Sees U.S. Complicity on Scud Ship

NC1503133092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Station commentary: "How Did the North Korean Vessel Reach Bandar-e 'Abbas?"]

[Excerpts] The issue of the DPRK cargo vessel carrying Scud missiles to Iran has been the main topic of foreign news for the past few days. The U.S. President expressed his concern over the transfer of these missiles to the clerical regime, seeing it as a disruption of the region's equilibrium.

Rumors from Washington suggested that the United States might intercept the DPRK vessel with its warships stationed in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Reports were disseminated that the Scud missiles being carried by the DPRK vessel were far more advanced than those supplied to Iraq, which it used against Israel

and Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf war. In the clamor of the propaganda uproar, and just when the world was expecting the DPRK vessel to be boarded and inspected by U.S. warships, U.S. officials unexpectedly announced that U.S. military forces and affiliated intelligence bodies had lost all traces of the vessel and had no idea where it had gone.

Last Wednesday, it was reported that the vessel had reached the port of Bandar-e 'Abbas and was unloading its cargo. This charade and role-playing is worth discussing and merits intelligent attention. How could U.S. intelligence have received information on the Korean vessel in international waters and confirmation that the vessel was carrying Scud missiles more advanced than those supplied to Iraq? How did it know that the vessel was going to Syria or Iran? How was it that after it was traced and subjected to intense surveillance by U.S. military forces and the U.S. espionage and intelligence agencies, the vessel suddenly disappeared and no one knew where it went!?

The fact is that from time to time, the United States and the clerical regime are adept at staging such displays; however, in the latest farce they acted in a very amateurish fashion. Of course no one believes that the United States, with all its surveillance facilities, could have lost a cargo vessel after having traced and identified it. That this happened after it was announced that the United States was planning to halt and inspect the vessel is even more amazing!

Obviously, this incident has its roots elsewhere. In the past few years the people of Iran and the world have seen many such sham performances. They recall that in the heat of the propaganda war between the clerical regime and the United States, the latter sent cargo planes full of armaments to Iran. Everyone knows that in the last few months, the Western governments, including the United States, have granted quite a few concessions to Iran, including unfreeing some of its frozen assets in connection with the release of the Western hostages captured by the Lebanese Hizballah.

We can deduce that it is conceivable that the disappearance of the vessel carrying Scud missiles to Iran and its sudden reappearance at Bandar-e 'Abbas indicates an arcane deal between the two governments of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and George Bush. The difficult question is: What did Hashemi-Rafsanjani give Bush to allow the vessel to deliver the Scud missiles to the clerical regime? Which one of its deceptive and pompous slogans is going to be sacrificed for this purpose?

As usual, the clerical regime's propaganda machinery created an uproar over this incident. The regime's hierarchy—with their usual two-faced behavior—adopted their anti-American posture to deceive the people. A few gullible people may have been deceived that the safe arrival of the vessel at Bandar-e 'Abbas was the result of problems with U.S. intelligence, U.S. military forces, or—in the words of the mullahs—the result of divine intervention!

Those who are fully acquainted with the policies and character of the clerical regime's spokesmen and hierarchy know full well that the regime has always camouflaged its dealings with the United States and Israel in veils of hypocrisy and dissimulation, and that by raising a propaganda clamor and pulling the wool over the people's eyes, it can continue its clandestine transactions and no one will be the wiser.

We hope that the Iranian masses understand the clerical regime's maneuvers and will not be deceived by such displays. Those who are not deliberately deceiving themselves and those whose interests are not linked to the interests of the clerics know full well that the hostility of the clerical regime against the United States and Israel—or, in their words, against world arrogance—is couched in hollow and meaningless slogans. In fact, the clerical regime will never let any opportunity pass to collaborate with the United States and other Western governments.

The time has long passed when the hypocritical clerics raised slogans of neither East nor West, and other fraudulent slogans to occupy the people. Today every Iranian knows that this regime will extend the begging bowl equally before the East and West to maintain its influence.

The purchase of the Scud missiles from the East and its import with the West's concurrence is the best proof of what has been said. Even if one chooses to close his eyes to this truth now nothing will change.

Further on Dispute With Turkey Over Ship

Meeting With Envoy Cancelled

LD1503143492 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA—Prosecutor General Ayatollah Abol Fazl Musavi-Tabrizi Sunday cancelled a scheduled meeting with Turkish Ambassador here Korumaz Haktanir, a press release issued by Tabrizi's office said. The decision was taken in protest to the illegal act of the Turkish Government in confiscating the Iran-bound Cypriot vessel 'Cape Maleas', the announcement added.

Ayatollah Musavi-Tabrizi also condemned the illegal and obscene measure taken by the Istanbul court regarding the arrest and conviction of the captain and crew of 'Cape Maleas'. He described the act as "one of the most obscene and blatant infringements of international regulations" by Turkey. The Turkish ambassador was due to meet Ayatollah Musavi-Tabrizi on Wednesday, March 18.

Ankara Embassy Demands 'Immediate Release'

LD1503171792 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Ankara, March 15, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here today stated that the interception and subsequent seizure of the Iran-bound ship "Cape Maleas" by the Turkish Government was a violation of international conventions and normal relations between world countries.

The embassy in its protest note to the Turkish Foreign Ministry termed last Thursday's confiscation of the ship's cargo as "unlawful" and strongly protested to the illegal decision of the Turkish court in this regard. The note also demanded the "immediate release" of the cargo together with material and related damages.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been trying to settle the issue through negotiations with the Turkish officials in view of the good neighbourly relations between the two countries, said the embassy. It added that Iran did not resort to the legal measures because of the assurances given by senior Turkish officials on the early release of the cargo. The note also advised Turkey to think more about the future.

On Friday the Iranian Foreign Ministry had summoned Turkish ambassador in Tehran to protest the seizure of the ship and demand compensations in this regard. The Cypriot registered vessel was detained by Turkish authorities in the Bosporus Strait on October 22, in violation of international navigation rules.

Commentary Calls Seizure 'Political'

LD1403131192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Almost five months after the beginning of the crisis over Turkey's seizure of the Iranian-bound Cypriot ship, a Turkish court issued its final verdict ordering the confiscation of the ship and its cargo. Also, the ship's captain was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison and a fine of $800. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that the ship seizure incident was a purely political one from the outset, and making the issue look like a judicial case and issuing a court order were merely aimed at misleading public opinion. The Turkish action is not in accordance with any international norm. [passage omitted]

Finally, this question should be asked: If the promises of the Turkish officials made to Iranian officials regarding the release of the Cape Maleas were correct, then who else, apart from the high-ranking and responsible Turkish officials, make final decisions about that country's affairs and its relations with other countries? On the other hand, if the Turkish officials' promises were only a political game, then how can that country be trusted, particularly to have relations with it. It is clear that the outcome is not so different in any of the two cases.

The issue is that the Turkish Government has confiscated the Cape Maleas and its cargo without any justifiable reason and that action, no doubt, will have a negative impact on bilateral political and economic ties. As can be seen, by summoning the Turkish ambassador to the Foreign Ministry, and our country's Foreign Ministry issuing an official statement, the Islamic Republic of Iran is taking the confiscation of the Cape Maleas and its cargo seriously. The Turkish Government should take the necessary actions to clarify the issue immediately and seriously. Otherwise the Islamic Republic of Iran's government will adopt serious measures in that regard.

U.S. Role Purported

LD1403193992 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA—The Persian afternoon press also came down heavily against the seizure by Turkey of the Iran-chartered ship "Cape Maleas" and its cargo, despite earlier promises by President Turgut Ozal for its release, and warned Ankara not to play into the hands of the United States.

"RESALAT" and "KEYHAN" questioned Thursday's ruling of a Turkish court calling for confiscation of the ship and its cargo and sentencing its captain to six years in prison, and said it is quite obvious that the roots of the decision lie in Washington and not in Ankara. Earlier today, the Persian morning press had blasted the court's decision on the Cypriot-registered Cape Maleas which was seized on October 22 last year by Turkey while passing through the Bosporus Strait, and asked Tehran to reconsider its ties with Ankara.

RESALAT warned: "As far as Turkey is concerned, perhaps, the court ruling might have been the end to the unjustified seizure of the ship, though in effect that might be only the beginning of a risky course with unknown consequences for Ankara.

"Obviously, throughout the past few years the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to maintain self-reservation in dealing with the provocative and illogical acts of the Turkish Government. Iran's laissez faire policy with its restive neighbour, however, has now led to conjectures, even among the most optimists, that Iran is likely to react against Turkey's ungrateful response towards it. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The daily pointed out that the traffic of ships at the straits and waterways and during peacetime, whatever their cargo, is free from all restrictions with no government being allowed to seize them. It noted that earlier on the Turkish court had declared that Turkey can seize ships only at wartime, while the Turkish president and

his foreign affairs minister frequently assured Iran that the problem would soon be settled, giving also a date for releasing the detained ship.

"During his recent visit to Tehran, too, Ozal stressed on the need for an early solving of the case of the detained ship. Despite all that, however, the Turkish court decided to impound the ship which ruling is against the international law, the Law of the Seas and the Montreaux Treaty," regretted RESALAT.

It said "the question which obviously pops into the mind of the world people and especially the Turks is: While the statesmen in Turkey are unable to make a decision of their own, who then in that country is the decision-making authority? Who can veto the decisions of the Turkish president and of the Turkish prime minister? Who can violate the sovereignty of Turkey?

"The Americans wish to see the presence of critical and tension-prone points in the relations between Iran and its neighbors and are therefore exploiting Turkey as the mainmast for sailing in that course. That is only a bait being thrown for Ankara which will entail unwelcome aftermath for it." The daily cautioned that Turkey was opting for a rivalry and a conflict with yet unknown results, and said "let us remember that Washington's policy is to challenge Iran to a direct fight by sold elements who are now trying to make their presence felt in Turkey."

In another commentary on the same topic the Persian daily KEYHAN said the government in Turkey is "the pressure lever of the United States and NATO in the region every now and then creating crises to mar relations between the two countries (Iran and Turkey) and disrupting peace in the region." It said the decision by Turkey obviously leads one to question "who is the ultimate decision maker in that country?"

The daily recalled that during his visit Tehran last February the Turkish president had assured that the issue of the detained ship would be solved, "while the ruling by the Turkish court shows that he (Turgut Ozal) was unable to prevent an illegal measure against a country (Iran) with which Turkey has wanted to broaden relations."

It continued: "Hidden behind the case of the seized ship there seems to be other considerations. In fact what prompts Turkey to do such things as she has done is the realization of the very goals that the enemies of the Islamic revolution and on top of them the United States is pursuing."

"Has Turkey sacrificed the entirety of her regional interests for her membership among the European countries?, [no closing quotation marks as received] asked KEYHAN, and said it was time the government of Turkey made it clear "for how long it intends to be the pressure-lever of the United States and NATO in the region, and for how long it intends to mar her relations with Iran by creating crisis..."

The commentary suggested that it would be appropriate if the Islamic Republic "discontinued its policy of toleration" and make it clear to Ankara that "of the two alternatives of unqualified obeying of the wishes of the United States and NATO, or relations with Iran, it would have to choose only one."

Friday Prayer Sermons Held in Tehran

Nagorno-Karabakh Viewed

NC1303130392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1105 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Friday Arabic prayers sermon by Imam Ayatollah Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 13 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] Global arrogance, led by America, is trying to extinguish the heavenly light of Islam. The painful events taking place in Palestine, Lebanon, Algeria, Kashmir, and [name indistinct]—particularly the killing and torture of Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria and the fierce battles between Azerbaijan and Armenia—are mere examples of the plots concocted by global arrogance. They are trying to exploit peoples and confront the Islamic tide.

The only way the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia can foil arrogance's plot is by being vigilant, and realizing that the current bloodshed only serves the interests of global arrogance. They should realize that arrogance's only goal is the destruction of the material and moral resources of the two countries, which recently won independence. Both peoples in Azerbaijan and Armenia must act to achieve peace, security, and stability so that their common enemy will despair. I must note here that the Islamic Republic's policy in mediating between the two republics stems from Islamic and humanitarian principles, which may help establish peace and take care of both parties' interests.

In addition, the Islamic world must rise to confront global arrogance's and Zionist plots and help the Muslim mujahidin in Lebanon and Palestine. We must all celebrate the international day of Jerusalem, celebrated every year on the last Friday of blessed Ramadan. It will be held this year at the recommendation of the dignified leader of the Islamic revolution in two weeks. On that day, the voices of Muslims will be raised calling for the elimination of the usurper, Israel. [passage omitted]

Elections Discussed

LD1303114192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The pure Mohammadan rite of Friday prayers on the second Friday in Ramadan was held today, with the participation of fasting believers across the country. At the beginning of the Tehran Friday prayers, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani termed the religious duty of fasting as

the most worthy form of worship. He said: God Almighty says fasting is mine. [passage omitted]

In his second sermon, Tehran's interim Friday prayers imam referred to the announcement by the guardian of the cause [vali-ye amr—Khamene'i] designating 7 Farvardin [27 March] as World Jerusalem Day. Praising this he said: The toppling of the Zionist regime is the duty of all Muslims, and the fact that the regime occupying Jerusalem has to be destroyed must not be forgotten. He urged widespread participation by world Muslims in the services of World Jerusalem Day and in the endeavors to annihilate the Zionist regime.

Ayatollah Kashani then referred to the Karabakh issue. Expressing regret at the bloodshed in that region, he said: The world powers are the warmongers and undoubtedly the continuation of the war is not in the interest of either Azerbaijan or Armenia. He pointed out that world powers, such as NATO, who seek to interfere in the Karabakh issue, are not sympathetic toward nations but seek to dominate the region.

Tehran's interim Friday prayer imam, continuing his sermons, termed the fourth Majles elections as destiny-making. He said: The world is watching the election to see the extent of the people's participation in the arena. Ayatollah Emami-Kashani urged the revolutionary and caring people to be more alert regarding the enemies' tendentious propaganda, and expressed the hope that this time the people will disappoint the enemies by their massive participation in the elections.

Khamene'i Declares 'International Qods Day'

LD1203132192 Tehran IRNA in English 1109 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i here Friday declared March 27, 1992, as the 'International Qods [Jerusalem] Day' and hoped Muslims throughout the world by participating in the rallies "deal a heavy blow on the interests of the Zionists and their supporters."

The late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni declared the last Friday of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadhan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, as the International Qods Day. Every year on this occasion massive rallies are held throughout the world in support of the Palestinians and in condemnation of the usurper Zionist regime.

Ayatollah Khamene'i's announcement was made in response to a letter by secretary of the coordinating council of the Islamic Propagation Organization Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati.

In his letter Ayatollah Jannati asked for the leader's guidelines on the holding of the Qods day ceremonies since this year the fasting month in other Muslim countries started two days earlier than in Iran.

The ayatollah also asked for the leader's quidelines so that the Muslims will participate in the ceremony in a single day in keeping with the aspirations of Imam Khomeyni in order to further dishearten the enemies of Islam.

"Since this year the new moon of Ramadhan was sighted either last Wednesday or Thursday, in order to maintain Islamic unity and enable all Muslim brethren throughout the world to take part in the Qods day ceremonies, this year the occasion will be held on March 27," replied the leader.

In Iran the new moon of Ramadhan was sighted last Thursday, two days later than other Islamic countries. Therefore, the Qods day, the last Friday of Ramadhan, in Iran will fall on April 3 as against the March 27 on other Islamic states.

Begin Derided as 'Father of Mideast Terrorism'

LD1203195992 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 12 Mar 92

["Father of Mideast Terrorism Departs for Eternal Damnation—KAYHAN"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—"The father of Mideast terrorism" has left this world as a broken man unmourned and unsung, wrote an English daily today, and wondered at the punishment awaiting Menahem Wolfowitz Begin in the hereafter.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL wrote in its weekly edition that Begin's last 9 years of life as a recluse "was a far cry from his heyday as a terrorist leader-cum-prime minister, when his unscrupulous determination had left no stone unturned in pursuit of his warped Zionist ideals." It called him "a resolutely ruthless character" who constantly refused to give a public answer to his sudden resignation as premier, comment on his shadowy past or meet his promise to write his memoirs.

"It doubtlessly had nothing to do with his conscience for the atrocities he committed and perpetrated," added the daily.

KAYHAN recalled Begin's sordid past from his obscure beginings in Poland to his landing in Muslim Palestine in the 1940s to head the terrorist band "Irgun Zvai Leumi" against the children of the soil. "The most notorious incidents included the 1946 blowing up of the King David Hotel in Qods [Jerusalem] housing the British military headquarters and killing some 200 people," said the daily, noting that the shocking crime made the British put a price tag on Begin's head. Begin followed it up next year with "the massacre of more than 250 Arabs, mainly women and children at Dayr Yasin," it said. "So horrendous were the atrocities carried out by Irgun that the mainstream Jewish leadership attempted to distance themselves from Begin and even condemned him as a terrorist."

The outcast after becoming Israeli premier and signing the notorious U.S. sponsored Camp David Accord, said the daily "was subsequently awarded along with (Egypt's Anwar) al-Sadat, the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize in perhaps the most infamous bestowal of the accolade.

"The deceptive appearance of the terrorist leader was rapidly shown to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, revealed in such incidents as the 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor and the mass invasion of Lebanon the following that cost 24,000 Arab lives, mostly civilians [sentence as received].

"Even though he is no more, behind him is a legacy that has had devastating repercussions."

KAYHAN concluded that although Begin "escaped punishment in this temporary life, like the frailty of age and ill-health that caught up with him, he now has no means, no guns, no deceptions, to avoid answering for his unprincipled behaviour where he has gone."

Pakistan

Five-Nation Nuclear Meeting Called 'Trap'

BK1303105392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Mar 92 p 12

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, March 12—"Proposed 5-Nation conference on Nuclear Non-Proliferation in South Asia is a trap and Pakistan must explode a nuclear device before attending this moot", says Senator Tariq Chaudhry.

Taking part in the debate on President's address to Parliament in Senate here Thursday 12 March he said except Pakistan all other proposed participants of the conference including India are considered nuclear powers and Pakistan will be a loser if it attends the conference without detonating a bomb.

He said India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 and its nuclear status or development of nuclear programme will not be affected if it signs the NPT. On the contrary, he said, Pakistan has not detonated the device and it will be in a disadvantageous position.

The member said the foundations of the country's nuclear programme were laid by late ZA (Zulfiqar Ali) Bhutto, who according to him told eminent scientist of the country Dr Abdul Qadeer that he (Bhutto) will make available all resources but "I want a bomb." The programme he said, continued during President Zia's era and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had all along been interested in its development. But he alleged that the officers sitting in the Foreign office were toeing American policies.

Senator Tariq Chaudhry strongly opposed any third option on Kashmir and said it was not acceptable to the people. He said the dispute should be settled in accordance with the UN resolutions and in the spirit of Simla agreement.

On Afghanistan, he said it is in the interest of Pakistan to seek an early settlement of the issue. But, he opined, that the UN peace formula was not practical.

The Senator criticising the Prime Minister PM, described him as an irresponsible ruler. He said when Gen Fazle Haq was murdered, the PM was on Sindh tour. He cut short his visit and flew to Lahore (instead of Peshawar where his close friend was assassinated) and played a cricket match at Lahore Gymkhana.

Defense Minister—NPT Would Break Power Balance

BK1603110592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah has said that although Pakistan has achieved a nuclear capability to some extent, it will however be utilized for peaceful purposes only. Talking to newsmen in Lahore last evening, he said that Pakistan has always tried to apprise its external friends that it cannot unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] because this will disrupt the balance of power in the region. In reply to a question, the defense minister said that his recent visits to Saudi Arabia and Oman were aimed at securing the support of these countries in ending the human rights violations by India in the occupied Kashmir.

Officials Call Meeting Over Indian Nuclear Plan

BK1503112892 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

[By Anwar Iqbal—All Quotations as Published]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan has called a high level meeting Sunday to consider an Indian proposal for talks on nuclear non- proliferation which was conveyed to US officials this week by New Delhi's Foreign Secretary, JN Dixit.

A spokesman for the Foreign office said Saturday the meeting would try to ascertain the reality behind the newspaper reports about Dixit's proposal.

"So far we have only seen what appeared in the news dispatches from London and Washington. We have asked our missions in the two capitals to send authenic copies of his statement," he said.

Secretary General Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki and foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan will participate in the meeting besides Pakistan's ambassador in Washington Syeda Abida Hussain who arrived in Islamabad Saturday morning. She presented her credentials to President Bush at the White House on March 11 and was called immediately after to Pakistan for consulations on the nuclear and other issues.

Asked how would Islamabad react If India was sincere in proposing nuclear talks, the spokesman said: "We will welcome it because we have long been trying to persuade Indians to join the talks.

The top Indian official who in Washington for talks on US-India relations told journalists Tuesday his government has offered to talk with the United States on halting the spread of nuclear weapons.

"I have indicated to the US government that we are ready to enter into a substantial dialogue to be responsive to its concerns on non- proliferation, he told reporters in Washington.

On Saturday, the BBC reported from London that the Indian government has hinted, it no longer ruled out taking part in a conference on limiting nuclear proliferation in South Asia proposed by Pakistan suggestion for a five-power conference involving Russia, the United States, China, Pakistan and India.

But BBC claimed Mr Dixit conveyed the shift in India's policy during his talks in Washington.

In a separate dispatch the all India Radio also reported that Dixit has asked the United States to motivate Russia, China and Pakistan to make south Asia a nuclear free zone.

Addressing an international institute in London, Mr Dixit said before convening a five-nation conference, proposed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in June last year. There was need for building confidence between the countries of the region.

Dixit's statements earned him the wrath of the Indian opposition as MPs in Parliament accused the government of selling out India's interest to the Americans by agreeing to discuss the sensitive nuclear issue with them. The opposition also opposed the proposal for five-nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation.

Washington claims that both India and Pakistan have acquired nuclear capability and says it wants to avoid a nuclear race in South Asia. In October 1990, Washington suspended millions of dollars in military and economic aid to Islamabad following reports that Pakistan might have attained the technology to make nuclear device.

India's Nuclear Posture Viewed

BK1503152392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 15 Mar 92 p 10

[Text] Amid opposition onslaught against the government of Narasimha Rao, the India foreign secretary, J.N. Dixit, has hinted that his country is not averse to the proposal of five-nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. After prolonged reluctance, the Indian government has now shown its readiness to hold bilateral talks with the US on a subject crucial to peace in the region and India's relations with the West. The Indian government has been under greater pressure from the oposition not only on the nuclear and security issues but also on the liberalisation of economy. While the Indian foreign secretary was on his way to US to hold indepth talks on the nuclear issue, his prime minister had to rule out the signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It only shows tremendous difficulties faced by a minority government in undertaking a complex transition from a very rigid position held by Indian traditional nationalism. There has been a national consensus based on Indian National Congress ideology at least on two subjects; First, an obsession with the country's image of a world power. Second, an endogenous growth under a statist model. The consensus is so widespread that besides congress (I), the orthodox left (CPI, CPI-M [Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India-Marxist]), the right wing revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party, and a moderate Janata Dal, all agree on the assertion of Indian particularity in the name of sovereignty. Despite extreme divergence in their respective would view, all maintstream parties are not ready to budge an inch on their perception of security and state capitalism.

However, faced with a tremendous balance of payment crisis, the Indian government had to enter a Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) amounting to 7 billion dollars with the International Monetary Fund and the World bank, under similar package of conditionalities pertaining to macro-economic reforms as agreed by Pakistan much earlier. But Indian unwillingess to liberalise trade vis-a-vis US on reciprocal basis have invited a warning of punitive action from the US trade authorities under the special provision 301 of the 1988 Trade Act. On the other hand, while successive Indian governments have been insisting upon a 'zone of peace' in the Indian occan, they have never agreed to any proposal on nuclear non-proliferation in the region by any quarter, including Pakistan. But in the post-cold war era, when People's republic of China has also agreed to sign the NPT and a concensus has emerged on non-proliferation on the world level, the Indians could no more sidetrack the issue. To insist upon a nuclear-free zone in the Indian ocean, and not to concede to any such proposal without offering a palpable alternative smacks of Indian hegemonic hypocrisy. One is amazed at Dixit's suggestion asking the US to motivate Russia, China and Pakistan in making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Already, all these countries have agreed on the proposed five-nation conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. Moreover, India as well as other nations cannot delink the security issues from that of economic survival and financial interaction in an increasingly changed world. The consensus on the world level is for human rights, nuclear non- proliteration and unhindered economic growth. And India on all these issues remains a defaulter. Although the present Indian government has initiated an arduous process of departure from what used to be nehruvian vision of India, the mainstream parties in India are not yet prepared for a daring response to the dramatic changes in the contemporary world, and also look back towards region without a hegemonic design.

Nevertheless, the ice has started melting on hitherto undebatable issues in India, and it shows a ray of hope for the future of India and a backward region called South Asia. It will be a statemanlike response, if the Government of Nawaz Sharif helps his Indian counterpart by proposing additional confidence-building measures between the two neighbours. It will surely have a sobering effect on an otherwise timid process of change in Indian attitude.

Shiite Clergyman Assassinated in Islamabad 15 Mar

LD1503110192 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 15, IRNA—Unidentified gunmen shot to death a Shiite Muslim leader at Imam Sadeq (AS) Mosque here Sunday morning and managed to escape the scene. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mostafa Heydar Omran [name as received] in charge of 'Tehrik-e-Nifaz Fiqh Jafariya', TNFJ, (Movement for the Implementation of Shiite Jurisprudence), who was fasting, was reading the Holy Qu'ran in the mosque when the gunmen opened fire on him.

A TNFJ spokesman said that there is no information yet available on the identity and motives of murderers. He said investigations are underway by the movement in this connection. Meanwhile, police here failed to give further details on the assassination.

PRC-Aided Power Plant at Muzaffargarh Planned

BK1403103292 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 14 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Islamabad—A 201 megawatt power plant will be installed in Muzaffargarh with the cooperation of China.

According to the details two thermal power units will be installed in Muzaffargarh and the project will be completed within the next two years.

The ministry of water and power has finalised all modalities in this regard and submitted its report to the Chinese government.

The project will be completed at a total cost of 157 million US dollars which include 576 million Pakistani currency and 131 million US dollars and the rate of interest of loan will be less than 8 percent.

The period of repayment of loan has been fixed to 10 years with a grace period of three years.

The source said that this project was a step towards the direction of development of the backward areas of the country.

Editorial Notes Signs of Thaw in Ties With U.S.

BK1403121592 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Mar 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Pak-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] After an embarrassing delay of many months Pakistan's ambassador to the US, Abida Hussain, was granted audience to present her credentials to the US president. Despite ceremonial nature of the occasion, the American president raised some of the pertinent questions having caused the lowest ebb in an otherwise 'most alied ally among the allies' sort of relationship. Bush was quite emphatic in stressing upon the resolution of differences on the nuclear issue, if 'full relationship' was to be resumed. Pakistan earned the suspension of US aid in October, 1990, when the US president did not provide NOC [No Objection Certificate] on Pakistan's nuclear capability to the congress. While the US president shared 'strong support' with Pakistan for the UN efforts in seeking a peaceful solution of the Afghan civil war, he expressed his will to 'work together' for a 'secure and stable South Asia free of nuclear arms'. He emphasised bilateral efforts and adoption of additional confidence-building measures to resolve outstanding disputes between India and Pakistan. Although Bush appreciated the economic liberalisation currently being undertaken in Pakistan, he did not mince words in stressing the need for human and civil rights, including the role of opposition and a free press, to flourish in Pakistan. Obviously the president was showing his concern in a diplomatic manner, on an unenviable record of human rights violations and witch-hunting of the opposition at the hands of present rulers.

Faced with considerable appeal of Ms Bhutto in the West, the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] strategists picked up Abida Hussain to neutralise the image of their rival, rather than attending to the high stakes involved in a very crucial diplomatic challenge. Despite a pseudo rhetoric on security and economic aid issues, the Nawaz Sharif Government has been making frantic efforts, albeit vacillating, to mend its fences with the US. The acceptance of UN Secretary General's peace plan on Afghanistan, a less hawkish posture on nuclear issue, a moderate view on non-proliferation in South Asia, and liberalisation of economy have made some moderating effect on the US administration. But, much was needed on the diplomatic front than the half-hearted measures, without a clear direction by the mediocres in command in Islamabad, who have been pulling it in opposite direction. However, there is no realism behind the outright rejection of international concerns for human rights and nuclear proliferation in the name of ideology or abstract sovereignty. In the given circumstances, when we observe some signs of thaw in our relationship with the US, there is a greater need to take more daring and creative steps to break out of our current isolation in the world. It is in our own national interest to abandon an ill-conceived course. Why should other people be blamed for their part in reminding us of our obligations towards more democracy, peace in the region, nuclear

non-proliferation and progress of our poor nation? The West is not to be blamed for our lapses. It is time that the ruling troika in Pakistan took a sensible course, and avoided further harm to the long term interest of the nation. The US-Pak collaboration in the South and South-West Asia will be in the best interest of the region and the world, if regional conflicts and fundamentalism can be avoided for the benefit of economic progress.